WARREN MAGAZINE

ALL NEW STORIES AND ART! PLUS COLOR!

EERIE

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EERIE #56

APRIL 1974

A WEREWOLF HUNGERING FOR HUMAN FLESH STRUGGLES AGAINST THE DEADLY MAGIC OF THE WIZARD!

THERE'S A BRAND NEW WARREN MAGAZINE
THE SPIRIT
BY WILL EISNER
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EERIE NO. 56, PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT MAY, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016, TELEPHONE: (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 9 ISSUES FOR $10.00 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE $12.00.

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EERIE®

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CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

"All your writers are worthy of Warren Awards!"

I would like to congratulate **Tom Sutton** on his fantastic fantasy fable "Spawn of the Dread Thing." Not only was the story great, but the artwork was superb.

Also, thanks for the biographical info on artist **Sanjulian**. I'm sure you folks are proud of him.

MIKE COOK
New Hope, Pa.

I received the latest EERIE (#54) in the mail the day before Christmas. What a present! The cover by **Sanjulian** was great, but slightly misleading. In the story "To Cure the Curse," Arthur Lemming was transformed into a mummy, and not a vampire as shown on the cover.

In the letters section, I partially disagree with reader **Ron Guerreiro. Rich Corben's** coloring is good, but some potentially fine color sections have been ruined by his coloring. Anyway, "Hunter" was pretty good . . . but not excellent. Certainly not as good as the one in EERIE #53. "The Christmas Spirit" was great, and if this is what we can expect from your new mag, I'll be sure to buy it. But the story didn't belong in EERIE.

"Schreck" was great, especially the shock ending. And "Dr. Archaeus" was fantastic. It reminded me of "Dr. Phibes."

I'm glad **Sanjulian** won a **Warren Award** for Best Cover. He and **Enrich** are my favorite artists.

SAMMY JONES
Brandon, Miss.

It seems to me that you are letting a good man get away. I refer not to an artist or writer, but to "Dax the Warrior."

"Dax" was a heavy. He was in a class with "Conan" and other great heroes. And, as an artist and avid reader of sword and sorcery tales, I found "Dax" to be a fine addition to your magazine.

Continue "The Mummy" and "Hunter." But return "Dax" to warriorship. You can drop "Marvin, the Dead Thing" simply because it's childish. "The Werewolf" has become corny; if you've seen one, you've seen 'em all. Give us "Dax" back!

S. MOTAYNE
Edgemere, N.Y.

For the nonce, "Dax" is enjoying a well-deserved respite from the rigors of demon-fighting and monster mauling.

"Schreck" is super far-out. Let's have more **Vincente Alcazar** art and, especially, more stories by **Doug Moench**.

"Hunter" by **Rich Margopoulos** is great! And I love that art by **Paul Neary**.

Anyway, it's too bad I wasn't handing out this year's Warren Awards. If it'd been up to me, "Schreck" would have won for Best Series.

JIM KING
Gilchrist, Ore.

Sorry, Jim. There is no "Best Series" category in our yearly Warren Awards. At least not YET!

EERIE, you've blown it! **Gary Kimber**, in issue #54, said it all. EERIE has now become a nothing. The only thing I look forward to now is the color section and maybe the **Paul Neary** "Hunter" series. To me, it's the only series worth reading.

Idiotic series like "The Mummy," "The Werewolf," and "Dr. Archaeus" are killing EERIE as an entertainment magazine.

Drop the continuing series if you want to keep EERIE as a top-rated horror magazine.

JEFF KILIAN
Wichita, Kan.

While in the far, far future, the man known as Hunter: Demon Killer tries to carve a niche for humankind in a world inhabited by lusting mutants devoid of humanity.

I used to buy your magazines all the time. But, for whatever reason I don't know, in the last year you have changed them. And all my friends feel the same way about this.

Series are the **worst** thing you have ever done. Don't your writers have the imagination to come up with new stories every month?

Also, I feel that if you had more stories of outer space, you would sell more magazines.

JAMES J. JARVIS
Oxford, N.Y.

Oops! Looks like I spoke too soon!

Sanjulian's covers are simply mind-devastating. He's my favorite EERIE cover artist.

And I also enjoy the fact that EERIE is made up entirely of continuing series. It makes the magazine much more exciting. I especially like "Hunter" and "Schreck." And I'm anxiously awaiting the return of "Marvin, the Dead Thing." And what ever became of "Coffin?"

BLACKLIGHT
W. Springfield, Mass.

"Coffin" will be coming your way shortly. It ain't easy for a dead man to get himself psyched up for his debut, y' know!

I have been reading EERIE for a long time, and would like to let you know what I thought of issue #54.

"The Mummy" series is terrible. **Steve Skeates** has got to be one of the most unimaginative writers of all time.

Martin Salvador did his usual great art job on "The Werewolf," but now **Skeates** is writing it. **Ecch!**

Rich Margopoulos and **Paul Neary** are great, but I'm not really crazy about their "Hunter" series. I would rather see them do non-continuing science fiction stories as they used to do.

This issue's installment of "Schreck" was fantastic, just like the last one. **Doug Moench** outwrites himself on this series, even if it is reminiscent of "The Omega Man."

"Dr. Archaeus" even surpasses "Schreck." **Isidro Mones** is a very talented artist. **Gerry Boudreau** has concocted an excellent character in Archaeus, obviously inspired by the film "Dr. Phibes."

RAYMOND WATERS III
Washington, D.C.

I started buying your magazines for my fiancee, who is an avid horror-freak. The thing that most surprised me at first was the incredible artwork featured in your magazine.

In school, I used to do pen and ink realism, but was scoffed at because such artists weren't in demand. I'm glad to see that through such periodicals as EERIE, the illustrative art-form is appreciated.

Also, I do not believe your magazine to be a 'comic book.' Each panel contains a picture worthy of a canvas. **Gonzalo Mao, Esteban Maroto, Rich Corben, Paul Neary** . . . the list of fine artists would fill an entire page.

Finally, I feel that some of your stories would make excellent motion pictures, certainly better than the flicks that are being put out today.

And to the writers . . . brilliant morals, biting satire, and fine plot twists make all your writers worthy of **Warren Awards!**

ERIC ROSS
JESSICA DANIELS
Tallahassee, FL

EERIE #54 was one of the best issues **Warren** has ever put out. And the best story would have to be "Schreck."

Also, I sure hope THE SPIRIT is better in his own mag than he was in EERIE #54.

KENNY KLEIN
Eugene, Ore.

The best story in your latest EERIE, was the special color SPIRIT section. Other than that, my comments on your continuing series are as follows.

"The Mummy:" In many ways, **Jaime Brocal** is one of your better artists. He draws well and knows how to tell a story. This is something that can be said of few of your artists . . . even **Esteban Maroto. Steve Skeates'** writing on the first two episodes was bad. With the third installment, however, he cleared up all the confusions and organized the series. "The Mummy" is not brilliant, but it's substantial.

"The Werewolf:" **Rich Buckler** and **Bill DuBay's** art got the series off to a good start. **Martin Salvador,** while he understands the basic principles of story-telling, lacks the imagination of a good horror artist. **Al Milgrom's** scripts were odd. Not particularly great, but ruthless and logical. "The Weremummy" twist has got to be the stupidest thing to happen since Abbott and Costello met Frankenstein.

"Hunter:" This is one of the two really good strips in the mag. The virtues of "Hunter" are two-fold. One is **Paul Neary's** exceptional art and the other is **Rich Margopoulos'** intelligent and provocative writing. In many ways, **Neary** is the most promising artist to appear in the last year. Despite the tendency to cripple himself by overly cluttering his pages, **Neary** has a near-flawless story-telling sense. He intercuts long-shots and close-ups with the skill of a master movie-maker. His rendering power is absolute. And **Margopoulos** has a good grasp of science fiction writing.

"Schreck:" A pointless and tasteless exercise of depravity. It's a shame that someone as talented as **Vincente Alcazar** should get involved in something as trashy as this.

"Fathom Haunt:" All of a sudden, **Tom Sutton** has reappeared at Warren, complete with a serial character and a new art style. And both "Fathom Haunt" and the new **Sutton** are delights. I hope to see them both as often as possible.

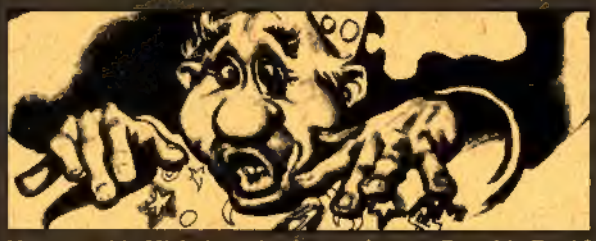
"Marvin, the Dead Thing:" There are enough swamp creatures going around these days. And this one does the genre no credit. The less I see of it, the better.

All in all, the move to serials was a good one for **Warren.** They are the **only** good thing you people are doing.

BRIAN EARL BROWN
Mishawaka, Ind.

Hear that, Creepy, and the rest of you serial-less clods? Looks like continuing series are where it's at!

SURPRISE! SURPRISE! A SPECIAL APRIL FOOL'S TREAT FROM RICH CORBEN!



How would Michelangelo have drawn Donald Duck? How would Van Gogh have rendered Fritz the Cat? These and other vital questions are left unanswered by this issue's special Corben color section "The Wizard Wagstaff." Richard Corben, master of the illustrative macabre, shirks the shroud of demonic intensity for a special detour into horrific humor. And the result is this issue's surprise color tale, a light-hearted and blood-red April Fool's treat!

The new EERIE look. Each issue stars new monsters and heroes in a macabre backdrop. The Mummy, Dr. Archaeus, Dax, Schreck, The Werewolf and Hunter have launched the new look. Yet to come: Coffin, The Spook and Child!

Would You Write a Letter?

DEAR COUSIN EERIE
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

In all my years of comic book reading, I have never come across so excellent a mag as EERIE.

Author **Steve Skeates** produced a masterpiece with his "Mummy" series, but manufactured a complete dud with "The Werewolf."

"Stranger in a Village of the Insane" was both interesting and stimulating. I liked the way **Skeates** handled the 'weird weed.'

Main reason I don't like the "Werewolf" series is that it has become the same (almost) as "The Mummy."

"Hunter" has a good plot, but what makes that one great is the **Paul Neary** artwork. Don't lose him. And the preview of THE SPIRIT book was fantastic. You can be sure I'll be sending for a subscription shortly.

MARTIN CASTLE
Kingston, N.Y.

Don't think your Uncle Creepy and I aren't worried about this new kid on the block: The Spirit! Two dead Warren magazine hosts were enough! Besides, this guy's tough . . . !

Ish #55 was superb! The "Schreck" story was one of the best I've read in a long, long time.

FRANK MALICKSON
Dresher, Pa.

I've been meaning to ask why you don't put out an EERIE snap-together model like the one you have of Vampi. I think it would be great to have a plastic hobby kit of our Cuz!

JEFFREY EVTEL
Trenton, N.J.

To tell the truth, Jeff, no plastic model could possibly do justice to my handsome good looks.

I really like EERIE alot! Your magazine is heads and shoulders above CREEPY.

One thing I'd definitely like to see is more series!

BOB RYAN
Whitewater, Wis.

How can this be? "Dax the Warrior," the greatest thing ever to have graced the weary pages of EERIE is now gone. Gentlemen, I plead with you to take another look at "Dax."

He wasn't created to be left on a battlefield, paralyzed. This is not a fitting end for the Great Warrior. And as I look upon the pages of EERIE, a great sadness fills my heart. It is no longer the fantastic magazine it once was.

I realize there must be progress in the **Warren Magazines.** But dropping "Dax" in favor of "The Werewolf" and "The Mummy" is regression.

BUDDY BENNETT
Lawrence, Mass.

THE EERIE EYE

THE STORY OF MONSTER MASTER

ISIDRO MONES

A WILDLY IMAGINATIVE FANTASY ARTIST

Isidro Mones, Warren Publishing's potentate of mood and the macabre, likes to take long walks in gloomy cemeteries. Which should come as no surprise to **Warren** fans who've seen **Isidro's** mystic, atmospheric work.

Like many of his native co-artists, **Mones** was born in the classical Spanish city of Barcelona. "At an early age," he recalls, "I was already messing up school papers with my drawings." And by the time he was fifteen, **Isidro** began an apprenticeship in the rough and teeming world of advertising agencies. Before very long, he had become proficient in the varied intricacies of the photo lab and artistic media.

After learning what he could of the advertising world, **Isidro** began illustrating children's books. This he did for many years. But his demonic nature was not to be suppressed. His children's work was "always painted in morbid colors."

It was while painting these children's books that **Isidro's** lifelong ambition to illustrate stories in the comic medium was fulfilled. He was invited to join the **Warren** art staff. And **Mr. Mones** has been going strong ever since.

Isidro likes classical literature, art, and music, and is interested in esp and parapsychology. One thing about him, though, is a strange predilection for "working only at night." But what else would you expect from one of the world's foremost masters of illustrated terror?

The sun's anvil, a great desert, as rendered by the incomparable Isidro Mones. From "The Quest of the Golden Dove" (EERIE #55).

THE RETURN OF ARCHIE GOODWIN

Way back in CREEPY #17, Publisher **James Warren** bid a sad farewell to then-Editor **Archie Goodwin. Archie** was leaving Warren to sow his wild oats in a free-lance capacity, writing and editing magazines in the color comics field, and doing the syndicated comic strip SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN with one-time CREEPY artist **Al Williamson.**

In those olden days of Warren comics, **Archie** was the Editor of CREEPY and EERIE, Associate Editor of VAMPIRELLA, and author of such horror classics as "Pursuit of the Vampire" (CREEPY #1), "Death's Dark Angel" (VAMPIRELLA #12), and "Soul of Horror" (EERIE #3). Not content to rest on these laurels, **Archie** further added to his list of credentials by writing and editing four issues of Warren Publishing's much-lauded BLAZING COMBAT Magazine, the first comics publication to deal realistically with the horrors of warfare since **Harvey Kurtzman** practically invented the genre back in the fifties.

So much for history.

Now, the big news.

After a too-long hiatus, **Archie** has returned to the Warren fold. He will take over as Editor of CREEPY and VAMPIRELLA. In addition, **Archie** will be writing for us again . . . the same type of high-caliber stories that contributed toward our unique style of comics.

Welcome back, **Archie!**

FANZINE REVIEWS

FANZINES are amateur publications produced by comic book fans, geared to an audience with a similar interest in comics. They contain a diversity of material, from historical articles on comics of the **past**, to discussions of **current** comics and news of comics **yet to come!** Fanzines are available **only** by MAIL, direct from their publishers. We think you'll enjoy reading some of the better examples from the present fanzine market.

SWORD AND FANTASY

THE SFCA
9875 SW 212 St.
Miami, Fla. 33157
$3.00

Sword and Fantasy is one of the great fantasy art collections. Between the covers of this giant 56 page deluxe volume is a sampling of some of the finest sword and sorcery artwork ever published. This is a professional-quality book featuring rare, out-of-print artwork by such greats as **Frank Frazetta, Rich Corben, Virgil Finlay, Wally Wood, Berni Wrightson,** and others. And their subject matter runs from hard-core horror to **Edgar Rice Burroughs.** The covers and two-page centerspread are in full color. The book is paperbound, printed on high-quality glossy stock, and is well-worth the price. A must for every serious collector of fantastic art.

FUNNYWORLD

Box 5229, Brady Station
Little Rock, Ark. 72205
$1.25

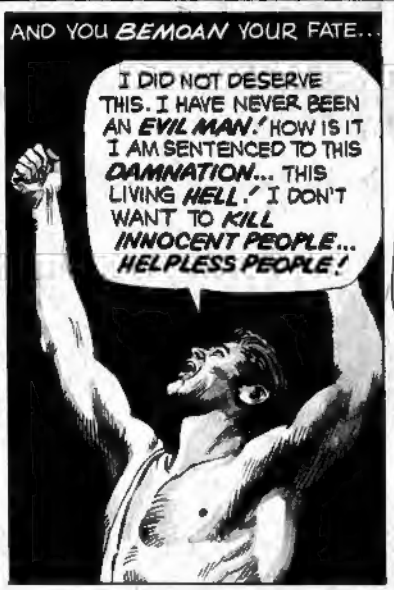
If you are at all interested in animation and cartooning, this is the magazine for you. **Funnyworld** is an incredibly perceptive magazine written for lay readers. Issue #15 features an excellent article on the making of "Fritz the Cat," has many strong and valid criticisms of the current crop of Walt Disney animation films ("Aristocats" and "Robin Hood"), and does a thorough job of detailing the color comics work of cartoonist Carl Barks. There is a fine article on the cartoon "Heavy Traffic," and an in-depth report on an underground comics convention. Additionally, there are interviews, articles, and commentaries on all aspects of cartoon work. An excellent publication.

EUROPEAN CARTOONIST

Via G. Modugno, 5
16156 Pegli, Genoa, Italy
$3.00

This is another high-quality publication. Editor **Nino Bernazzali** has devoted his first collector's edition to the work of the great Italian artist **Hugo Pratt.** An interesting, in-depth analysis of **Pratt's** career opens the book, followed by two complete and unusual adventure strips, "The Secret of Tristan Bantam," a tale of voodoo and sea-born suspense, and "Wheeling," a story of American pioneers. These are followed by a bibliography and random selections of the artist's work. **European Cartoonist** is an excellent introduction for American readers to the unique format of the foreign comic book. This 56 page magazine is recommended to all students of illustrated fiction.

CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF!

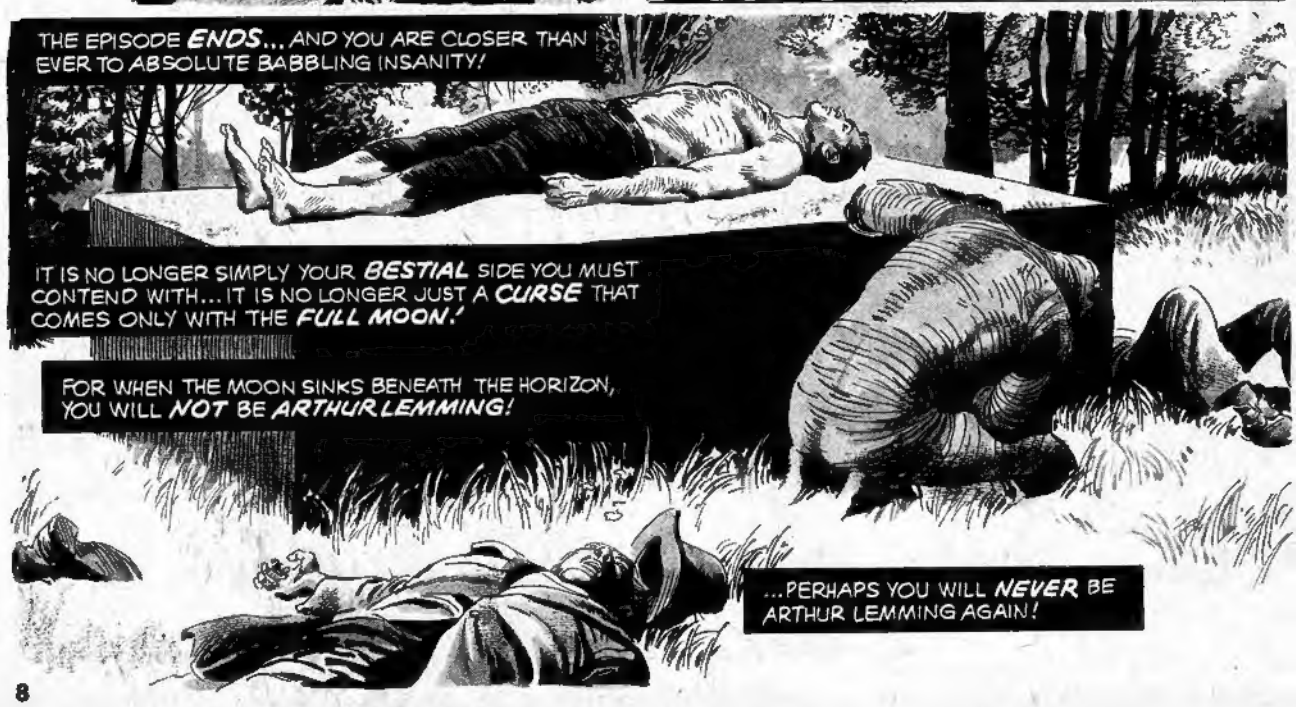


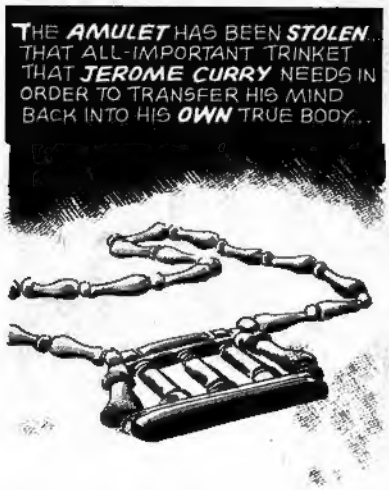
STORY: STEVE SKEATES / ART: MARTIN SALVADOR

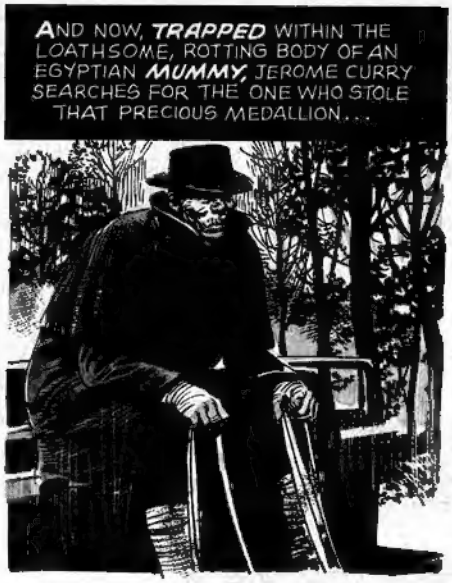
BUT FATE'S JOKE HAS NOT YET RUN FULL CIRCLE! YOUR WANDERING CARRIES YOU TO A GYPSY CAMP, AND THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION! A MYSTIC RITE WILL RESTORE YOU TO THE MAN YOU ONCE WERE! BESIDE YOU IS YOUR TICKET TO FREEDOM... THE CORPSE OF AN ANCIENT MUMMY..!

BUT SOMETHING GOES WRONG..! THE EXPERIMENT DOES NOT GO AS IS PLANNED..!

...AND ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE A SLAVERING BEAST WITHOUT A SOUL! YOU ARE UNABLE TO HARNESS THE DEVILISH POWERS THAT DRIVE YOU TO KILL..!


THE EPISODE ENDS... AND YOU ARE CLOSER THAN EVER TO ABSOLUTE BABBLING INSANITY!
IT IS NO LONGER SIMPLY YOUR BESTIAL SIDE YOU MUST CONTEND WITH... IT IS NO LONGER JUST A CURSE THAT COMES ONLY WITH THE FULL MOON!
FOR WHEN THE MOON SINKS BENEATH THE HORIZON, YOU WILL NOT BE ARTHUR LEMMING!
...PERHAPS YOU WILL NEVER BE ARTHUR LEMMING AGAIN!

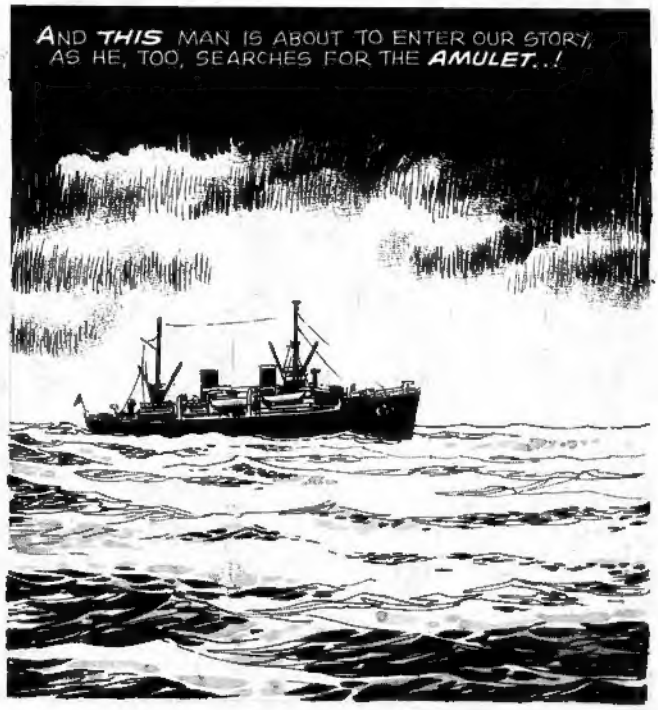

THE AMULET HAS BEEN STOLEN... THAT ALL-IMPORTANT TRINKET THAT JEROME CURRY NEEDS IN ORDER TO TRANSFER HIS MIND BACK INTO HIS OWN TRUE BODY...


AND NOW, TRAPPED WITHIN THE LOATHSOME, ROTTING BODY OF AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY, JEROME CURRY SEARCHES FOR THE ONE WHO STOLE THAT PRECIOUS MEDALLION...

HIS ONLY CLUE: A HANDFUL OF PAGES, TORN FROM A YOUNG WOMAN'S DIARY...

AND AS THE MUMMY PRESSES ON IN SEARCH OF THIS YOUNG WOMAN, HE IS UNAWARE THAT HE IS BEING CLOSELY WATCHED AND CAREFULLY FOLLOWED...

YET IT IS NOT JEROME CURRY-MUMMY THAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH NOW... FOR ANOTHER MAN HAS HAD HIS MIND TRANSFERRED INTO A MUMMY'S BODY... A MAN NAMED ARTHUR LEMMING...A MAN CURSED WITH LYCANTHROPY...


AND THIS MAN IS ABOUT TO ENTER OUR STORY, AS HE, TOO, SEARCHES FOR THE AMULET..!

AND THERE IS ONE... AN OLD WITHERED MAN... WHO IS INDEED *INTERESTED* IN ARTHUR LEMMING'S VISIT TO AMERICA...

I HAVE AWAITED YOU LONG AND *PATIENTLY*, MY FRIEND. AT LAST THE TIDES OF FATE HAVE DRAWN YOU WITHIN MY *REACH*. SUCH *YOUTH*, SUCH *STRENGTH*... SOON TO BE MY *OWN* ATTRIBUTES!

...there was a WERE-MUMMY

SO FAR, *THREE* MEN HAVE HAD THEIR MINDS MYSTICALLY PLACED WITHIN ANCIENT, MUMMIFIED BODIES... YET ONLY *ONE* WITHOUT THE AID OF THE AMULET... THIS IS *HIS* STORY... *ARTHUR LEMMING*, THE *WEREWOLF*... *ARTHUR LEMMING*, THE *MUMMY*...!

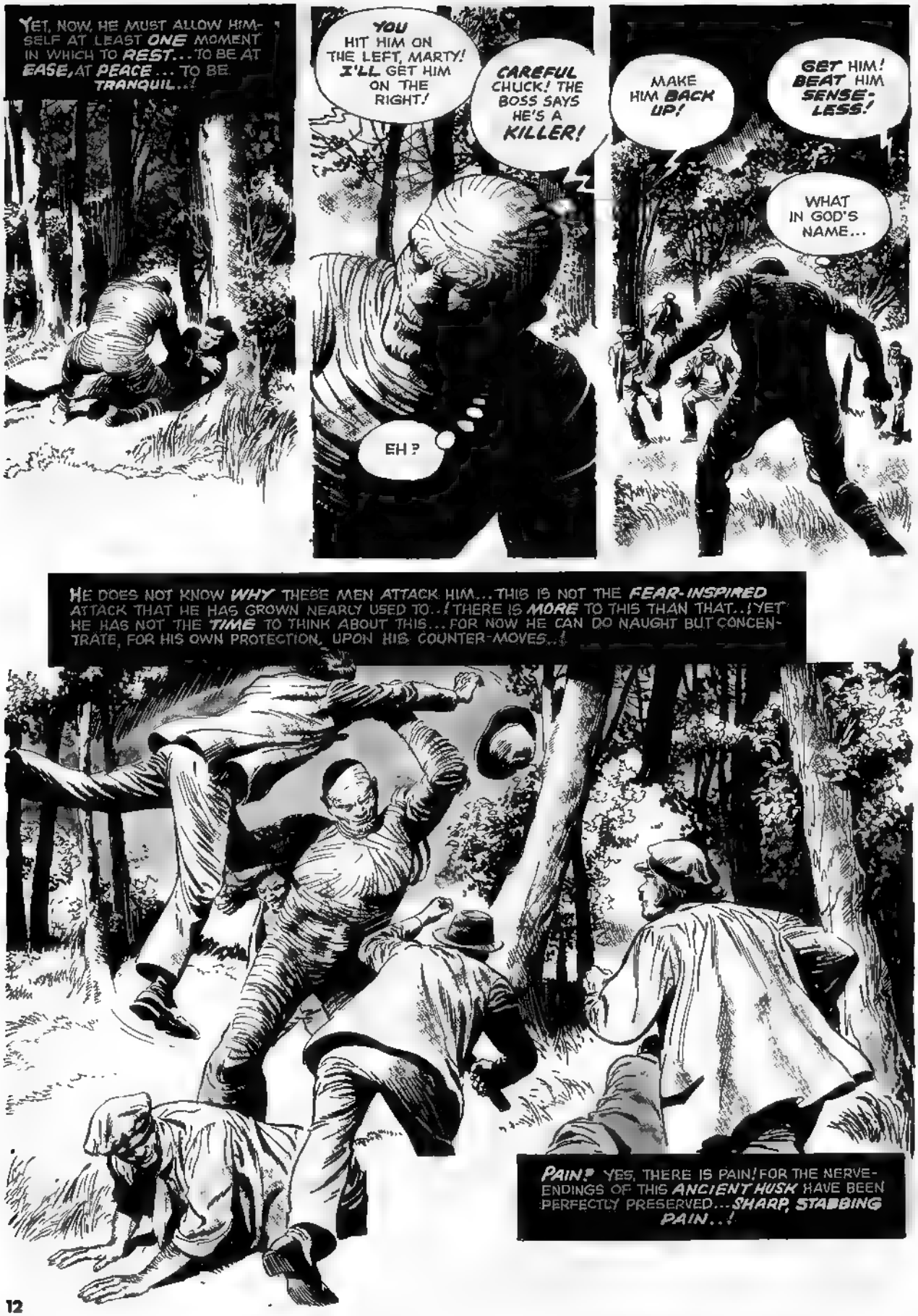
HOW MANY DAYS HAVE I BEEN ON THIS SHIP... KEEPING THE VERMIN AWAY FROM THIS MANNEQUIN OF A BODY...

IT'S STRANGE LOOKING AT MY OWN HELPLESS BODY AND DISLIKING IT... RESENTING IT!
IN THAT BODY I KILLED MERIAM... MY LITTLE GIRL!

MY GOD! A... A MONSTER..!
UH-OH! I'VE BEEN SPOTTED! I'LL HAVE TO SWIM FOR IT!

ARTHUR LEMMING AND HIS TWO BODIES ARE BEING DRIVEN TOWARD THE ROCKY NEW ENGLAND COAST BY SOME INNER COMPASS...

THE AMULET CALLS HIM, AND HE MUST ANSWER...


YET, NOW, HE MUST ALLOW HIMSELF AT LEAST ONE MOMENT IN WHICH TO REST... TO BE AT EASE, AT PEACE... TO BE TRANQUIL...!
YOU HIT HIM ON THE LEFT, MARTY! I'LL GET HIM ON THE RIGHT!
CAREFUL CHUCK! THE BOSS SAYS HE'S A KILLER!
EH?
MAKE HIM BACK UP!
GET HIM! BEAT HIM SENSELESS!
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME...
HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY THESE MEN ATTACK HIM... THIS IS NOT THE FEAR-INSPIRED ATTACK THAT HE HAS GROWN NEARLY USED TO..! THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN THAT..! YET HE HAS NOT THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS... FOR NOW HE CAN DO NAUGHT BUT CONCENTRATE, FOR HIS OWN PROTECTION, UPON HIS COUNTER-MOVES..!
PAIN! YES, THERE IS PAIN! FOR THE NERVE-ENDINGS OF THIS ANCIENT HUSK HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY PRESERVED... SHARP, STABBING PAIN..!

WE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THEY... NO!
OH, LORD! IF THERE WERE ANY FLUIDS IN THIS HUSK, I'D BE BLEEDING LIKE A SIEVE! DAMN THAT LITTLE WEASEL WITH THE KNIFE!

MUMMIES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO FEEL. THEY... NO!
THEY'VE TAKEN MY BODY!

MY MIND CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS. IT'S TOO MUCH LIKE AN ENDLESS MAZE WITH PITFALLS AND DOUBLE-STARTS EVERYWHERE..!
FIRST I'M CURSED WITH LYCANTHROPY! THEN I'M TRAPPED IN THIS CORPSE..!
...AND NOW MY TRUE BODY IS STOLEN!

WELL, WELL... THEY'RE HEADING IN THE SAME DIRECTION I WAS GOING... ALRIGHT!

LET THEM CARRY THE DAMNED THING FOR A WHILE!

YES, FOLLOW THEM, ARTHUR LEMMING... FOLLOW RELENTLESSLY... THOUGH YOU KNOW NOT WHERE THEY WILL LEAD YOU...

ALL HAS GONE AS I PLANNED! I HAVE BARELY ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO SUMMON A VISION IN MY GLASS, BUT MONEY HAS GIVEN ME THE FALSE STRENGTH OF...

...OTHER MEN'S MUSCLES!

ALL IS IN READINESS MASTER... IF ONLY IT WERE I! YOU PROMISED TO HELP ME MONTHS AGO!

QUIET, THROGMORE! YOU WILL HAVE YOUR CHANCE!

EVEN NOW THE BEAST FOLLOWS OUR SPOOR! BUT HE'LL BE TOO LATE!

HA, HA, MUCH TOO LATE!

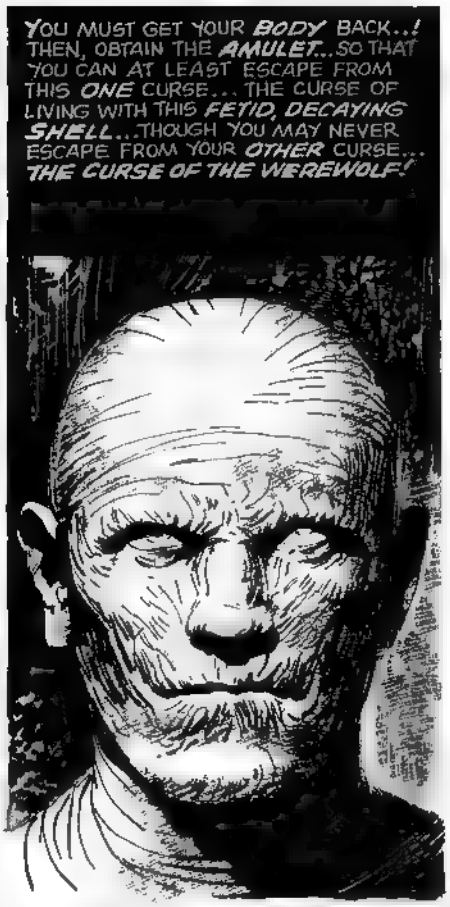
AS THE OLD MAN RUBS HIS HANDS IN ANTICIPATION, THE INERT BODY OF ARTHUR LEMMING IS BROUGHT IN...

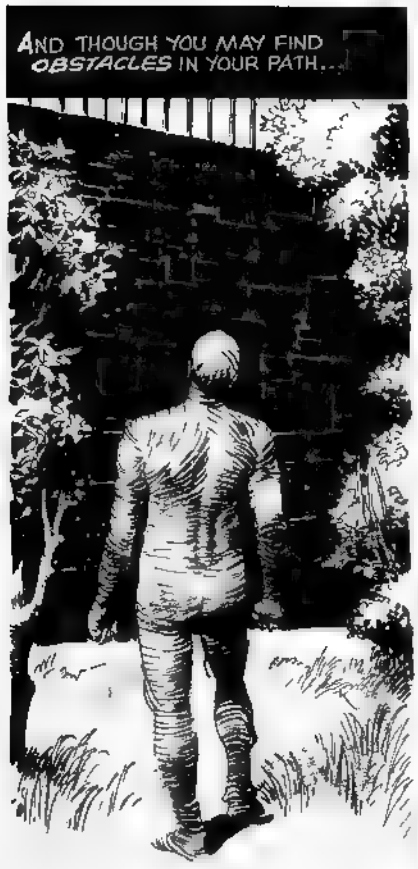
TENDERLY HE DIRECTS NEAR-MINDLESS FOOLS IN THE PLACEMENT...

THIS NEW TOY... ONCE A MAN, ARTHUR LEMMING, WILL SOON HOUSE A NEW MIND, A NEW SOUL...!

YOU WALK, ARTHUR LEMMING...YOU FORCE THIS CUMBERSOME BODY TO MOVE ALONG THE WOODLAND TRAIL... AND AS YOU WALK, YOU FEEL ALIEN, GIBBERING THOUGHTS TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH THE WALL YOU HAVE PLACED ABOUT YOUR MIND...

THESE ARE THE THOUGHTS OF THE ANCIENT, ORIGINAL MIND...THE EGYPTIAN MIND THAT HAS LIVED FOR CENTURIES WITHIN THIS BODY... BUT NO! YOU WILL NOT LET THESE THOUGHTS GET TO YOU. YOU HAVE NO TIME FOR THEM! THERE IS WORK YOU MUST CONCENTRATE ON... WORK THAT MUST BE DONE.


YOU MUST GET YOUR BODY BACK..! THEN, OBTAIN THE AMULET...SO THAT YOU CAN AT LEAST ESCAPE FROM THIS ONE CURSE... THE CURSE OF LIVING WITH THIS FETID, DECAYING SHELL...THOUGH YOU MAY NEVER ESCAPE FROM YOUR OTHER CURSE... THE CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF!


AND THOUGH YOU MAY FIND OBSTACLES IN YOUR PATH...

...YOU WILL SURMOUNT THEM...

...AND FACE WHATEVER FOES FATE WISHES YOU TO FIGHT!
WHAT..? THAT SOUND..?

SNARLING, DROOLING, THE FIRST OF THEM NEARLY CATCHES YOU OFF GUARD...

ANOTHER DELAY! FEELS LIKE THEY'VE HAD THEIR TEETH FILED!

SORRY, FELLAS! YOU GUYS WEREN'T TRAINED TO QUIT, WERE YA...!
Ooo

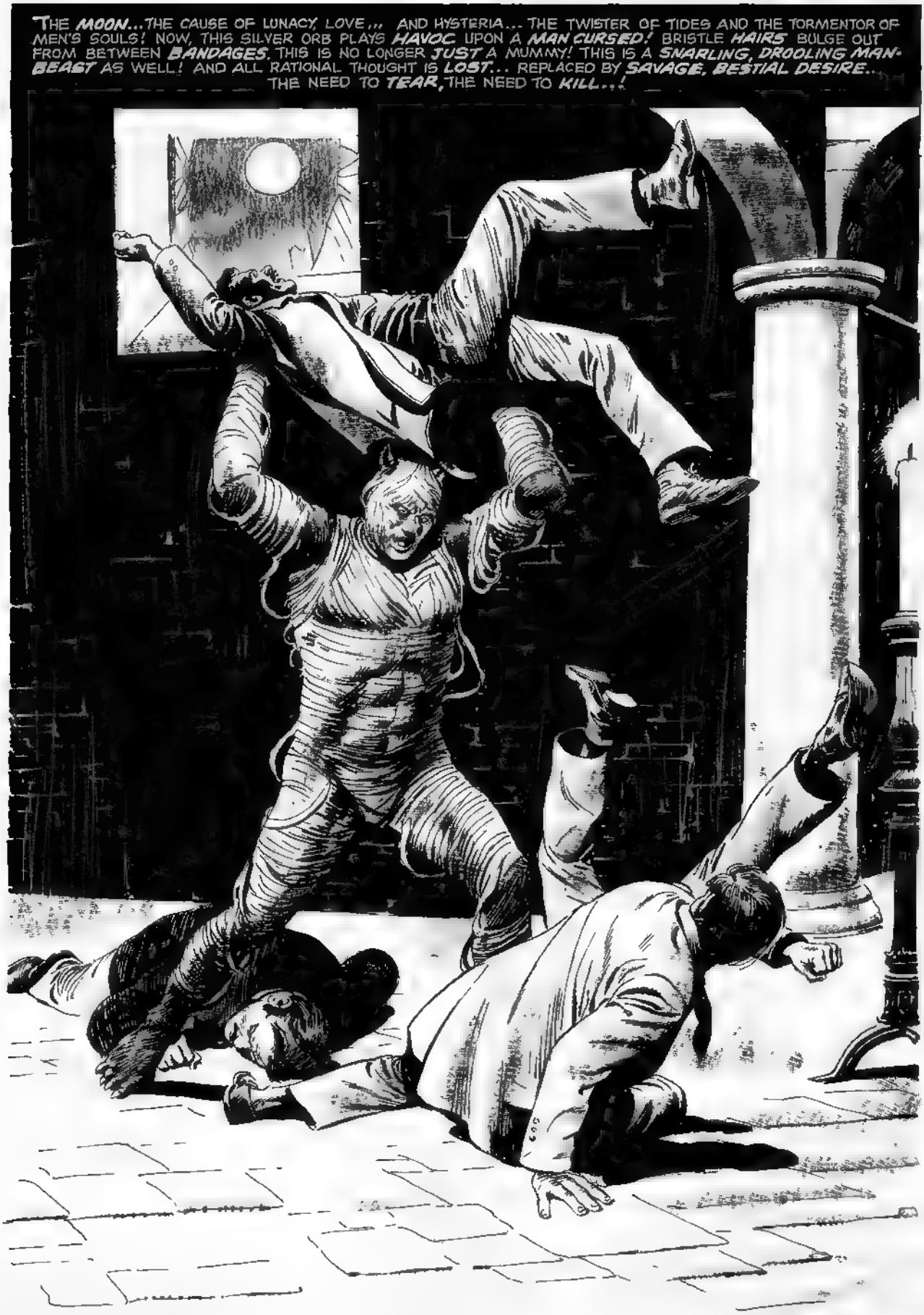
TRAINED ALL YOUR LIFE TO TEAR UP ON ANYTHING LIVING, AND NOBODY TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT MUMMIES. TOO BAD!

WHAT IS THIS SUDDEN IRONIC HUMOR THAT'S PERVADED YOUR THOUGHTS, ARTHUR LEMMING... IS IT THE TASTE OF MADNESS...?
... I USED TO APPRECIATE A GOOD HOUND!

WITHIN THIS RAMBLING GOTHIC EDIFICE, THE BLASPHEMOUS CEREMONY HAS *BEGUN*. TO *LIVE FOREVER*...THIS IS THE OLD MAN'S WISH... AND PERHAPS HE WILL *SUCCEED!* IF, EVERY FIFTY YEARS OR SO, HE CAN FIND A *NEW, HEALTHY* AND *VIRILE BODY* IN WHICH TO PLACE HIS *EVIL MIND*...HIS *TWISTED SOUL*...

BUT THE MIND OF ARTHUR LEMMING *LIVES*..! AND HE FORCES THE BANDAGED SHELL HE NOW INHABITS TO DO WHAT IT *CAN* TO MAKE HIS TRUE BODY *HIS* ONCE MORE...

THIS TIME, THE *UNOCCUPIED* BODY OF *ARTHUR LEMMING* HAS BEEN CHOSEN...


THE MOON... THE CAUSE OF LUNACY, LOVE... AND HYSTERIA... THE TWISTER OF TIDES AND THE TORMENTOR OF MEN'S SOULS! NOW, THIS SILVER ORB PLAYS HAVOC UPON A MAN CURSED! BRISTLE HAIRS BULGE OUT FROM BETWEEN BANDAGES. THIS IS NO LONGER JUST A MUMMY! THIS IS A SNARLING, DROOLING MAN-BEAST AS WELL! AND ALL RATIONAL THOUGHT IS LOST... REPLACED BY SAVAGE, BESTIAL DESIRE... THE NEED TO TEAR, THE NEED TO KILL...!

YOU... YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TAKE FROM ME!
NO! IT'S MINE! I MUST HAVE IT!

NOW'S MY CHANCE! THAT BODY CAN BE MINE!

THE BESTIAL BRAIN OF ARTHUR LEMMING KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT YOU, OLD MAN... KNOWS NOTHING OF YOUR MYSTICAL POWER... KNOWS NOT THAT OTHERS TREMBLE BEFORE YOUR GAZE...!

TO HIM, YOU ARE BUT A THIEF... TO BE DEALT WITH QUICKLY!

AND YOU FALL, LIKE A PUPPET, WITH ITS STRINGS SEVERED. NO LONGER ONE WHO CONTROLS! DESTROYED BY A MAN UNLIKE YOU... A MAN WHO SEEKS ONLY ESCAPE FROM POWERS THRUST UPON HIM!

HE DODGES AND HE WEAVES...LIKE AN ELUSIVE MELODY... FOREVER JUST OUT OF REACH... RACING TOWARD THE MOUNT THAT WAITS OUTSIDE...!

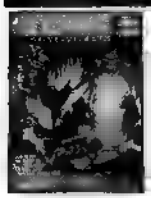
AND YOU STOP, FROZEN IN FRUSTRATION, AS YOU WATCH YOUR OWN BODY... AND HIS STEED ON TOWARD THE HORIZON. ANOTHER SET-BACK IN A LIFE FILLED WITH FAILURE!

AND SOMEWHERE, DEEP WITHIN YOU, YOU AGAIN FEEL THE ANGUISH OF TOTAL DEFEAT!

YOU KNOW THAT NOW, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, YOU ARE TRAPPED...

...DESTINED TO REMAIN A MONSTER FOREVER!

EERIE BACK ISSUES ORDER YOUR BACK ISSUES NOW!


#18YB70 EERIE
1970 YEARBOOK
$3.75

#18YB71 EERIE
1971 YEARBOOK
$2.75

#18YB72 EERIE
1972 YEARBOOK
$2.25

#1802
EERIE #2
$4.75

#1803
EERIE #3
$3.25

#1804
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#1805
EERIE #5
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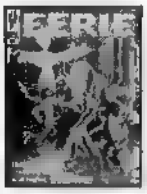
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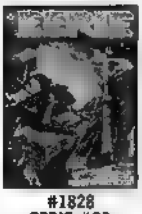
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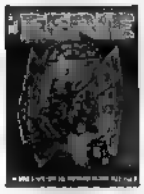
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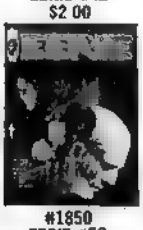
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EERIE #50
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#1851
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#1852
EERIE #52
$1.50

#1853
EERIE #53
$1.50

#1854
EERIE #54
$1.50

When ordering items, please use Order Form, last page of this magazine.

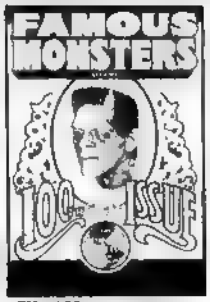
PIN UP POSTERS FOR SALE

UNCLE CREEPY COUSIN EERIE

UNCLE CREEPY painted by SANJULIAN 18"x20" of pulsating pigments. Compliment to Eerie, companion to 6' Vampi! #2948, UNCLE CREEPY POSTER, $2.00

COUSIN EERIE painted by SANJULIAN 28"x20" of horrendous hues! There's never been such a portrait! #2946, COUSIN EERIE POSTER, $2.00

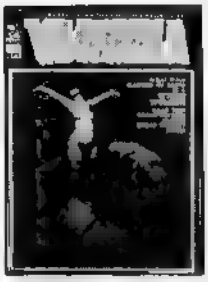
SPECIAL DOUBLE POSTERS! CREEPY #46 & EERIE #40 16"x22" Full Color on both sides Order one copy for $1.00 or two copies for $1.50! #2940



FM #100 Cover Full Color 20"x28" #2941 $2.00

VAMPIRELLA #23 Full Color 20"x28" #2942 $2.00

EERIE #41 Cover Full Color 20"x28" #2929 $2.00



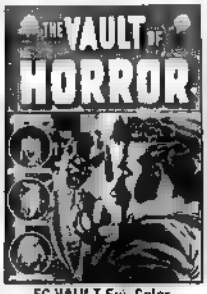
VAMPIRELLA #7 Full Color 20"x28" #2931 $2.00

CREEPY #48 Cover Full Color 20"x28" #2937 $2.00

EERIE #38 Cover Full Color 20"x28" #2938 $2.00

EERIE #23 Cover Full Color 15"x21" #2930 $1.50

EERIE #46 Cover Full Color 20"x28" #2939 $2.00



EC VAULT Full Color 22"x28" #2917 $2.50

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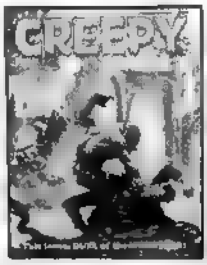
MOVIE FRANKENSTEIN Full Color, 21"x29" #2927 $1.50

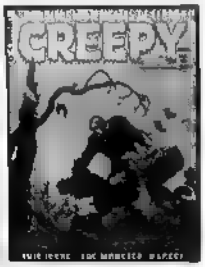
MOVIE DRACULA Full Color 21"x29" #2924 $1.50

MOVIE BLACK CAT Full Color, 21"x29" #2925 $1.50

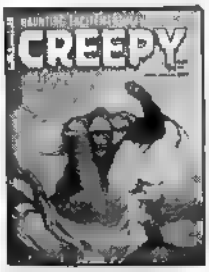
MOVIE KING KONG Full Color 21"29" #2926 $1.50



CREEPY #7 Cover Full Color 28" x 20" #2951, $2.00



CREEPY #10 Cover Full Color 28" x 20" #2952, $2.00



CREEPY #11, Cover Full Color 28" x 20" #2953, $2.00

FM #93, Cover Full Color 28" x 20" #2954, $2.00

To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

STORY: BILL DuBAY / ART: PAUL NEARY

DEMIAN HUNTER WAS A SOLDIER... A FIGHTER... A MERCENARY WITH A CAUSE...!
THERE WERE ONCE HUNDREDS OF MEN LIKE HIM. BUT IN THOSE DAYS AFTER THE LAST BIG WARS, THE HUNTERS WERE PITIFULLY FEW!
HIS FATHER HAD BEEN A MUTANT... A DEMON GENERAL...
HIS MOTHER...THE VICTIM OF A DEMON GENERAL'S LUST!
HIS CHILDHOOD HAD BEEN A HELL... OF GREATER PROPORTIONS THAN THE LAND AROUND HIM!
HUNTER, THE HALF-BREED THEY CALLED HIM!
HE NEVER FORGAVE THE FATHER HE HAD NEVER KNOWN... FOR MAKING HIM AN OUTCAST!
HIS ONE DESIRE WAS TO SEARCH OUT THE MONSTER WHO HAD CREATED HIM...
...TO MURDER THE DEMON HE WAS FORCED TO CALL... FATHER!
HUNTER! HE BECAME A KILLER... EXECUTING MUTATED DEMONS!
A CASTLE... HERE?...
HOW? THE WARS... THE DEMONS SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED IT AGES AGO!

THE ENTRANCE. OPENED! UNGUARDED!
IT'S NOT LIKE DEMONS TO BE SO CARELESS!
IF THE MUTANTS WERE HERE, THEY WOULD HAVE SPOTTED ME BY NOW!
WHY HAVEN'T THEY ATTACKED?
THEY NEVER LET AN OUTSIDER THIS CLOSE!
COULD IT BE A TRAP?
DO THEY WANT ME TO GO TO THEM?
OR IS THERE SOMETHING HERE THEY WANT ME TO SEE?
SUPPLIES!
ENOUGH TO FEED AN ENTIRE ARMY OF DEMONS!
AT LEAST NOW I KNOW THEY'RE STILL HERE!
OFPHAL WOULDN'T LEAVE FOOD BEHIND!
HE'S NEARBY...
. . AND HE MUST KNOW I'M HERE!

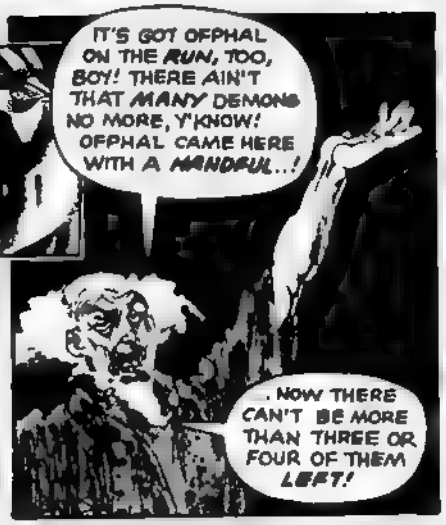
SO EERIE SLOOMY IN HERE!
I FEEL AS THOUGH GHOSTS OF COUNTLESS CENTURIES ARE FOLLOWING ME... WATCHING ME FROM SOME HIDDEN DOORWAY!
THESE STONE WALLS LIKE A PRISON.
...A DUNGEON I THINK THEY USED TO CALL IT!
SUDDENLY, A WINGED HAND DARTED A FIGURE FROM BETWEEN RUST-ED STEEL BARS...
LOOK OUT, BOY... BEHIND YOU!
DEMON! QUICK REFLEXES SPUN HUNTER AROUND...
THUD!
UGH!
...JUST AS A HUNTER'S FILTH-WINGED SPEAR SLAMMED INTO HIS SHOULDER...
...TOPPLING THE HALF-BREED DOWN CRUMBLING SPIRALING STONE STAIRS..!
NO NO
NOT WHEN I AM SO CLOSE UGH!

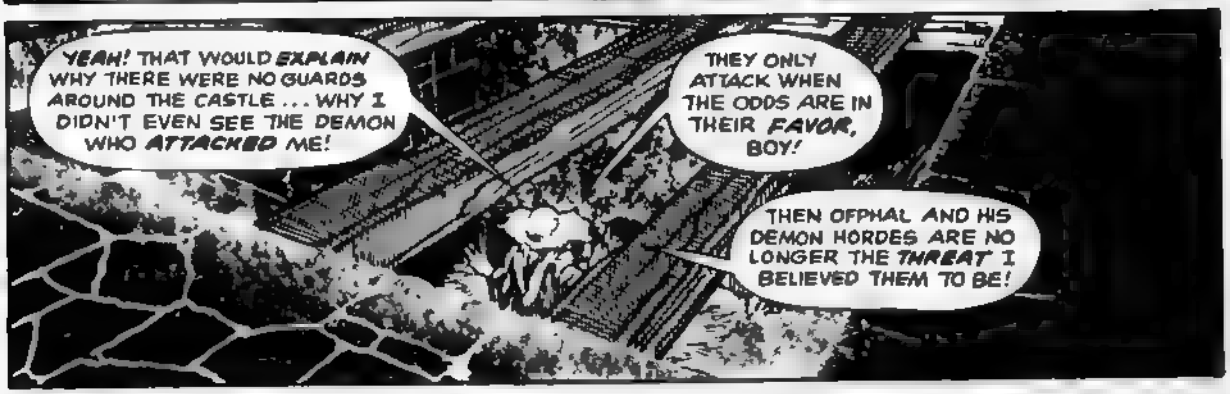
THE BLACKNESS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS ENSHROUDED THE DEMON-KILLER...
OOOH
GLAD YOU DECIDED NOT TO DIE ON ME, BOY!
IT GETS MIGHTY LONELY IN HERE WITH NO ONE TO TALK TO BUT THE RATS!
YOU... OLD MAN! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?
DEMONS GOT YOU, BOY! SHOVED ONE OF THEIR DISEASED SPEARS CLEAN THROUGH YOU!
THEY THREW YOU IN HERE WITH ME TO DIE!
I TRIED TO PATCH YOU UP..! BUT AIN'T NOTHIN' GONNA STOP THE GERMS ON THAT SPEAR FROM SPREADING THROUGH YOUR BODY!
YOU'RE DYING, BOY!.. SLOWLY, AND I'M AFRAID, PAINFULLY!
AS FOR WHERE YOU'RE AT... WELL, THIS HERE'S BATHORY CASTLE!
AND THAT POOR CREATURE OVER THERE WAS MARGARET BATHORY!
SHE'S BEEN DEAD ABOUT A WEEK NOW! BETTER OFF THAT WAY, TOO!
THAT'S HER HUSBAND, JOHN!... THE LORD OF THIS CASTLE!
HE KILLED HIMSELF A COUPLE'A MONTHS AGO... WHEN THOSE MUTANT DEVILS FIRST THREW HIM DOWN HERE!
THEY TOOK HIS WIFE... OVER AND OVER... AND HE WAS HELPLESS AGAINST THEM!
FINALLY ENDED IT THE ONLY WAY HE COULD!
COWARD'S WAY OUT IF YOU ASK ME!

AND YOU, BOY! WHAT OF YOU?
HOW CAN YOU TAKE WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU SO CALMLY?
I'M WELL AWARE OF HOW DEMONS TREAT WOMEN, OLD MAN!
AS FOR MY DYING... I AM PREPARED FOR IT!
MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT I MAY NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SLAY THE DEMON, OFPHAL!
OFPHAL?
WHY, HE'S IN THIS VERY CASTLE, BOY!

HE AND HIS RENEGADES TOOK THIS PLACE FROM THE BATHORYS.
THE BATHORYS HAD MADE THEIR HOME HERE FOR CENTURIES...
...EVEN REFUSED TO LEAVE THE PLACE AFTER THE BIG WARS... AFTER THE LAND AROUND HERE STARTED SPOUTING MUTATIONS OF ALL KINDS!
NOW THE BATHORYS ARE GONE...!
MARGARET WAS THE LAST... AND PERHAPS THE BRAVEST!
BUT THERE'S STILL THE BLOOD PRINCESS!!
BLOOD PRINCESS?
YEAH, BOY... A GHOST! AND SHE'S GOT THE DEMONS HERE SPOOKED!
I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HER!
WHEN MARGARET WAS DELIRIOUS, SHE MENTIONED THE PRINCESS... HIDING IN THE CASTLE WALLS!
HAH! SHE'S REALLY GOT THEM DEVILS SCARED, TOO!

YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY, OLD MAN!
IT'S TRUE! OFPHAL'S DEMONS HAVE BEEN DYING OFF..!
THEY'VE BEEN KILLED BY THE BLOOD PRINCESS OF BATHORY CASTLE!


IT'S GOT OFPHAL ON THE RUN, TOO, BOY! THERE AIN'T THAT MANY DEMONS NO MORE, Y'KNOW! OFPHAL CAME HERE WITH A HANDFUL..!
..NOW THERE CAN'T BE MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR OF THEM LEFT!


YEAH! THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THERE WERE NO GUARDS AROUND THE CASTLE ... WHY I DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE DEMON WHO ATTACKED ME!
THEY ONLY ATTACK WHEN THE ODDS ARE IN THEIR FAVOR, BOY!
THEN OFPHAL AND HIS DEMON HORDES ARE NO LONGER THE THREAT I BELIEVED THEM TO BE!

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE DEMONS! THEY'RE RUTHLESS!
AS LONG AS THERE'S ONE LEFT ALIVE, THE HUMAN RACE IS IN DANGER!
A LOT OF GOOD DEMON HUNTERS HAVE TRIED TO BRING IN OFPHAL!
NONE OF 'EM EVER DID!

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, OLD MAN?
HOW DID YOU COME TO BE HERE?
I'M AN OLD FOOL, BOY! A WASHED UP OLD MAN WHO'S SEEN BETTER DAYS!
I'VE DEVOTED MY ENTIRE LIFE TO HUNTING MUTANTS!
I WAS OUT FOR ONE MORE KILL... ONE MORE MOMENT OF GLORY!

MY NAME IS SCHRECK..
DEREK SCHRECK!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
YOU'RE THE LEGENDARY HUNTER...THE DEMON KILLER?!
WE CALLED 'EM WEREWOLVES IN MY DAY, BOY! *
BUT THAT WAS BACK WHEN THE MUTATIONS FIRST BEGAN...
..BACK BEFORE THEY EVOLVED INTO DEMONS...
..BACK BEFORE THE DEMONIC WARS!
* SEE EERIE #53, 54, 55 FOR SCHRECK!
YEAH, I'VE SEEN BETTER DAYS, BOY...
...LOTS BETTER!
WHAT A TEAM WE WOULD'VE MADE, OLD MAN...
YOU AND ME AGAINST THE WHOLE MUTATED WORLD..!
BUT LOOK AT US NOW! AN INVALID AND FATHER TIME! BOTH OF US NOW WITH MORE THAN ONE FOOT IN THE PROVERBIAL GRAVE!
QUIET, BOY!
SOMETHING'S GOING ON OUTSIDE THE DOOR...
LOOK AT THIS...
..A..A DEMON... DEAD!
WITH A KNIFE IN HIS BACK!

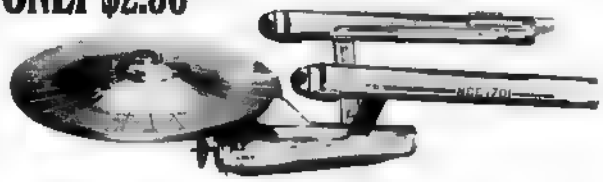
THE GHOST...
...THE BLOOD PRINCESS MUST HAVE DONE IT!
DON'T BE FOOLISH!
SHE'S COME TO FREE US!
IT'S NO GHOST, OLD MAN!.. SOMETHING SOLID...
SOMEONE'S UNBOLTING THE DOOR!
...SOMETHING HUMAN!
LISTEN!
CLICK-LICK!
WE'RE FREE, SCHRECK!
IT MAY BE ANOTHER TRAP!
MIGHT BE! WE'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS WE GO SEE!
HELP ME UP!
YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE BOY..!
SO WHO SAYS WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT?
LOOK! FOOTPRINTS!
YOUR GHOST WALKED THROUGH THIS DEMON'S BLOOD..!
LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HER!
BUT THE FOOTPRINTS STOP HERE..!

ONLY ONE WAY SHE COULD HAVE GONE BUT...
...THAT DOOR..!
YOUR GHOST IS LEADING US ALRIGHT! BUT WHY?
AND WHERE?..
THIS MUST BE WHERE YOUR GHOST WANTS US!
LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S BEEN HERE FOR CENTURIES!
AIN'T BEEN THAT LONG, BOY...!
...BUT I'LL WAGER THERE AIN'T BEEN NO DEMON DOWN HERE EVER!
SCHRECK! LOOK!
IT'S A NUCLEAR MISSILE!
I... I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY LEFT!
THIS CASTLE MUST HAVE BEEN AN ARMORY DURING THE WAR!!
THE GHOST KNEW THIS MISSILE WAS HERE..!
SHE LED US TO IT... WANTS US TO USE IT TO DESTROY THE LAST OF THE DEMONS!
IT WASN'T A GHOST THAT BROUGHT US HERE SCHRECK!
BUT NOW I KNOW WHY YOU CALL HER THE BLOOD PRINCESS!
NEXT ISSUE: "FATHER, SON AND THE HOLY GHOST!"

SPACED-OUT STAR TREK KITS & BOOKS

U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
STARSHIP KIT
ONLY $2.50

Flagship of the Starfleet Command! – THE USS ENTERPRISE! The ship of Captain James Kirk & First Officer Spock! This huge model was crafted to the exact specifications of the original blueprints of the ship model used on the STAR TREK TV show! Now it's yours! It's built on the same scale as the Klingon ship shown below #2460 USS ENTERPRISE STARSHIP $2.50



SPOCK
ONLY $2.25

MR. SPOCK, First Officer, stands over 6" tall in this model, as he blasts a 3-headed monster snake-creature with his faser ray gun. This pointy-eared Vulcaman alien is the favorite of everyone! #2462 MR SPOCK $2.25

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BATTLE CRUISER

The KLINGON BATTLE CRUISER was especially brought out to challenge the ENTERPRISE. The KLINGON BATTLE CRUISER represents the highest achievement of that worst of civilizations, the KLINGON EMPIRE, whose foul interstellar doings were portrayed so often on the TV series. Buy both giant ships & make them do battle! #2461 KLINGON BATTLE CRUISER $2.50

ONLY $2.50

STAR TREK LIVES!

STAR TREK is the show that WILL NOT DIE! Its fans kept it going on nationwide TV, and have been largely responsible for the new STAR TREK TV cartoon show! It's a real Phenomenon! Now, you can have a well-stocked STAR TREK-filled hobby shelf! Three superb huge kits, and 12 super STAR TREK books! What more could anyone ask for, except, perhaps, pointed ears? Order today!

STAR TREK ONE

Treatments by James Blish of STAR TREK shows "Charlie's Law," "Dagger of the Mind," "Balance of Terror," #2186 STAR TREK 85¢

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Features "City on the Edge of Forever," "Arena," "Operation—Annihilate!" "Taste of Armageddon," 4 others #2187 STAR TREK TWO 85¢

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Story of STAR TREK's most popular yarn (or ball of fuzz) from author's first brainstorm to full filming! #21065 TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES $1.50

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PLANET OF THE APES

PLASTIC HOBBY KITS!

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RAIN CLOUDS TRY IN VAIN TO SHIELD THE CITY OF *SALEM* FROM THE *FULL MOON!*

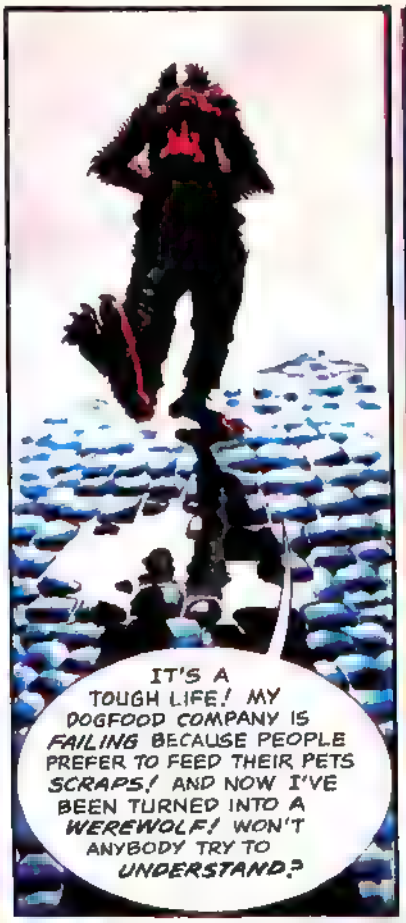
"I WAS *ALBERT TUSK*, HEIR TO THE TUSK FAMILY FISH OIL *FORTUNE!* I INVESTED IT ALL IN A *DOGFOOD COMPANY!*"

"THAT BITE *CURSED* ME! TONIGHT, THE PEOPLE WHO FORMERLY RESPECTED ME SHRINK BACK IN SHOCK AND *FEAR!*

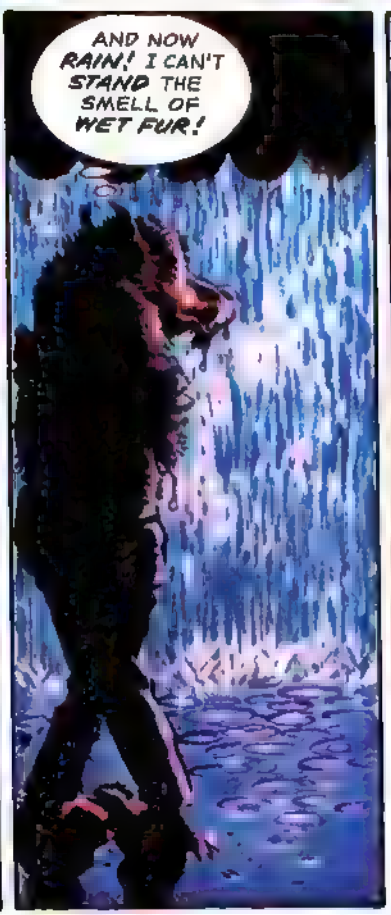
WIZARD WAGSTAFF

STORY: JACK BUTTERWORTH / ART: RICH CORBEN

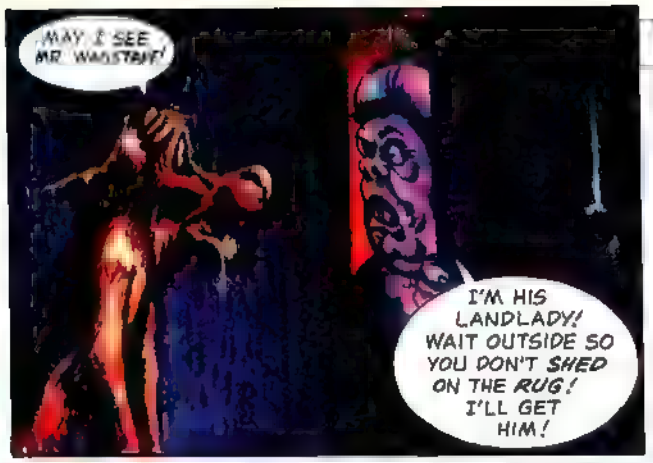
I NEVER ATTACKED ANYONE, BUT THEY RUN IN TERROR! FOOLS!
AFTER A ROUGH DAY IN THE BUSINESS ARENA, THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS ATTACK SOMEBODY!

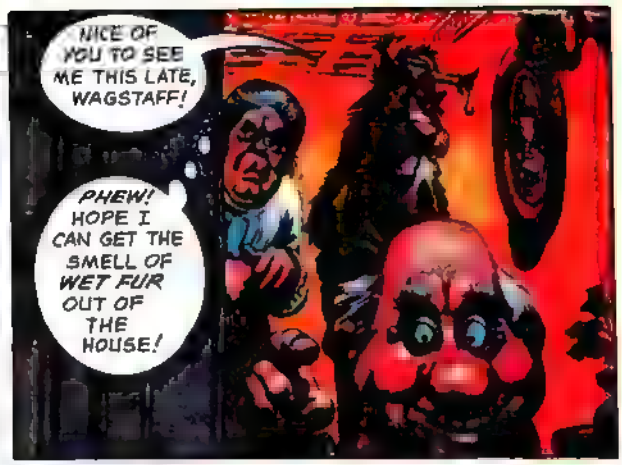

IT'S A TOUGH LIFE! MY DOGFOOD COMPANY IS FAILING BECAUSE PEOPLE PREFER TO FEED THEIR PETS SCRAPS! AND NOW I'VE BEEN TURNED INTO A WEREWOLF! WON'T ANYBODY TRY TO UNDERSTAND?

HI, YOU WOLF!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STAYED HOME...


AND NOW RAIN! I CAN'T STAND THE SMELL OF WET FUR!

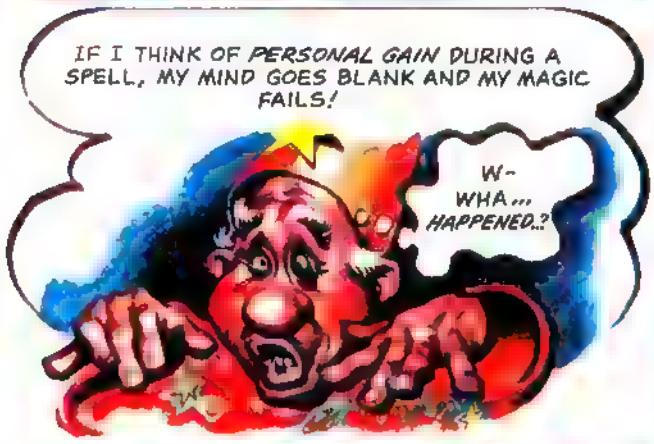
13
MOONEY STREET
HEY! THAT'S THE ADDRESS I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER FOR A WEEK! THE TRAVELING HAIR-REMOVER SALESMAN SAID SOMEONE THERE COULD HELP ME! WHAT LUCK!

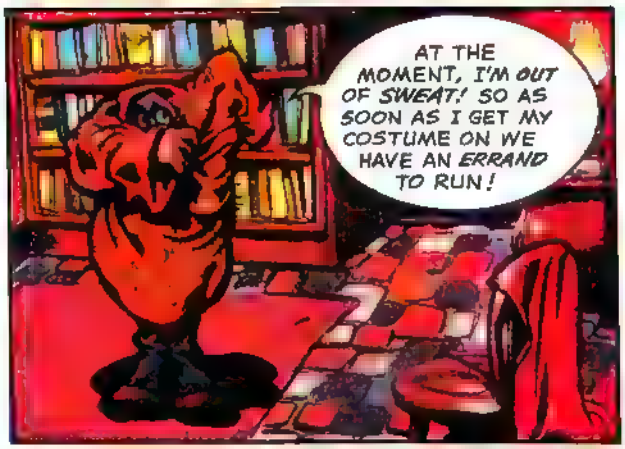

MAY I SEE MR. WAGSTAFF!
I'M HIS LANDLADY! WAIT OUTSIDE SO YOU DON'T SHED ON THE RUG! I'LL GET HIM!


NICE OF YOU TO SEE ME THIS LATE, WAGSTAFF!
PHEW! HOPE I CAN GET THE SMELL OF WET FUR OUT OF THE HOUSE!

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A PROBLEM, MR. TUSK! BUT BEFORE WE GET TO WORK ON IT, LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF!

I CAN ONLY CAST MY SPELLS TO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE!
THEY REQUIRE A SPECIAL INGREDIENT, THE SWEAT OF THE POOR!


IF I THINK OF PERSONAL GAIN DURING A SPELL, MY MIND GOES BLANK AND MY MAGIC FAILS!
W-WHA... HAPPENED..?


AT THE MOMENT, I'M OUT OF SWEAT! SO AS SOON AS I GET MY COSTUME ON WE HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN!

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT COSTUME?
IT'S PATTERNED AFTER A LOCAL HISTORICAL FIGURE! I WEAR IT FOR MY WIZARD DUTIES, AND ONCE A YEAR DURING THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE!

MR. WAGSTAFF, BEFORE YOU GO...
SHE ALWAYS ASKS ME FOR THE RENT IN ADVANCE IF SHE THINKS I MAY BE IN DANGER!

NOW TO FIND SOMEONE POOR... AND SWEATY...!
IT'S NO USE! PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF ME! THEY'LL ONLY RUN...!

WHENEVER I'M UNHAPPY I ALWAYS WANT TO EAT!
WHAT?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THAT DOG IS EATING WITH A SPOON!
SLUP!
SLURP!

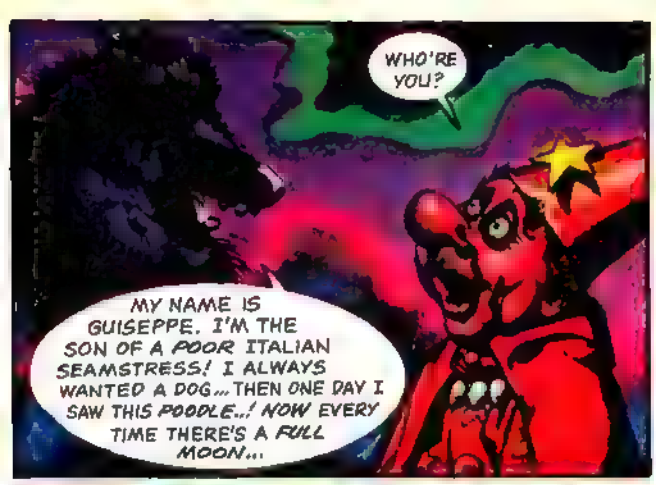
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ED! HE'S WITH ME!

HE SEEMS LIKE A FRIENDLY POOCH...
LICK!

BUT EVERY TIME THERE'S A FULL MOON WE GET REPORTS OF STRANGE ANIMALS ROAMING THE STREETS! IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU SAY SO, WAGSTAFF, BUT BE CAREFUL!
YEECH!

NOW GO AWAY, LITTLE DOGGY, BEFORE YOU GET HURT HERE...

I SMELL MEAT! WHY DON'T WE SHARE THAT LITTLE MAN BETWEEN US?
NO! DAMN! THAT POODLE SURE GOT AROUND!
SNIFF!
GOBBLE!
SNORT!
LOOK! HE LIKES MY HEARTY CHUNKS OF HORSEMEAT SOAKED IN LUXURIOUS GRAVY!
WHERE CAN I GET MORE?
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO ATTACK ANYONE?
WHAT? ON A FULL STOMACH?

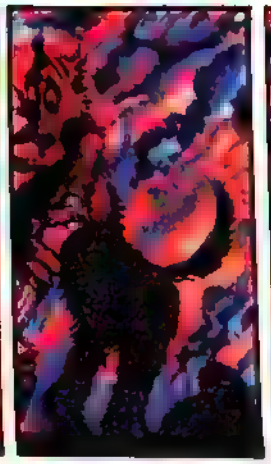

WHO'RE YOU?
MY NAME IS GUISEPPE. I'M THE SON OF A POOR ITALIAN SEAMSTRESS! I ALWAYS WANTED A DOG... THEN ONE DAY I SAW THIS POODLE..! NOW EVERY TIME THERE'S A FULL MOON...

I UNDERSTAND, GUISEPPE! AND I THINK I CAN CURE YOUR CURSE! COME WITH US AND I'LL EXPLAIN!

HEY WAGSTAFF, NO PETS... REMEMBER?

WHERE ARE WE?
IN AN ABANDONED SMUGGLER'S TUNNEL! IT LEADS FROM MY ROOM... TO THE SEA! I DO MOST OF MY MAGIC HERE!
YOUR SALIVA CONTAINS PERSPIRATION! IT SHOULD WORK IN MY POTION!

FANGS TO TEETH, FUR TO SKIN! BEAST TO MAN, SPELL BEGIN!
ALL RIGHT, TUSK! YOU FIRST! START RUBBING THIS HAIR-REMOVER SALVE ALL OVER YOUR BODY! I'LL DO YOUR BACK!



IT'S WORKING!

I'M NORMAL AGAIN!

NOW THAT THE SALVE IS FINISHED WORKING, YOU'D BETTER PUT YOUR PANTS ON BEFORE YOU GET US ARRESTED!
I'LL HAVE YOURS READY IN A MINUTE, GUISEPPE!

YOU KNOW, GUISEPPE, I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT'LL MAKE ME RICH... SELLING DOGFOOD TO WEREWOLVES AND PEOPLE WHO ARE AFRAID OF THEM! I OUGHT TO GIVE YOU TWO A FINDER'S FEE!
FANGS TO TEETH, FUR TO--

TUSK, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED MONEY! N-NOW I CAN'T CURE GUISEPPE!

YOU MEAN I HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE LIKE THIS? SO HELP ME, I'LL KILL YOU!
NO, GUISEPPE! IT'S JUST UNTIL HE REMEMBERS THE SPELL AGAIN! LOOK, IN THE MEAN-TIME I'LL GIVE YOU FREE DOGFOOD! JUST PASS THE WORD ABOUT HOW GOOD IT IS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KILL ANYBODY!
IT WON'T TAKE LONG, I PROMISE! I'LL CURE YOU!

WE'LL HAVE TO ORDER MORE DOGFOOD FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK, MISTER TUSK! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE BUYING THE STUFF!

WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS, WHY DO SO MANY OF THEM HANG THE JARS UP IN FRONT OF THEIR DOORS?
SPECIAL
I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW! YOU CAN GIVE YOUR ORDER TO GUISEPPE HERE! HE'S MY NEW DELIVERY MAN!

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT STRANGE ANIMALS APPEARING WHEN THE MOON IS FULL IS NONSENSE, WAGSTAFF! PROBABLY GYPSIES, OR SOME OF THE OTHER STRANGE PEOPLE WE'VE HAD COMING INTO SALEM RECENTLY!

SOME OF OUR SALEMITES DO A BIT OF IMBIBING AND SEE AN ODDLY-DRESSED PERSON LATE AT NIGHT, AND THE STORY GETS STRETCHED OUT OF SIZE!

HUH? A DOG... HERE?

NOW GO AWAY, LITTLE DOGGY, BEFORE YOU GET HURT HERE...

STORY: CARL WESSLER / ART: BADIA ROMERO

FOR THE DANGER EXISTS! IT HAS ARRIVED ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE OLD FOLEY MANSION. BUT IT IS NOT YET EVIDENT...
IT'S ME... CHET F. KELLER, JAN HONEY! 'MEMBER... COUSIN CHET FROM DOWN 'BAMA WAY?
YES, I'M JAN FOLEY! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
ARE YOU LIVING UP HERE NOW, CHET?
NOPE! I'M UP HERE LOOKIN' AFTER MY INTERESTS... THAT MIDDLE INITIAL, F.. THAT STANDS FOR FOLEY, Y'KNOW!
SURE YOU DO, HONEY! AUNT NORA'S ESTATE GOES TO US FOLEYS, RIGHT? I TOLD YOU MY MIDDLE NAME IS FOLEY!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN...
I ONCE HAD A DOG I NAMED ROLY POLY FOLEY! BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE HIM AUNT NORA'S HEIR!
NOW THAT'S NOT NICE, COUSIN JAN! NOT A BIT NICE. AUNT NORA HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART...
SHE WAS NOT YOUR AUNT. YOU'RE A THIRD COUSIN, CHET.
I'M A FOOL, COUSIN JANET. YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE... AND A SIGHT TOO PRETTY FO' THE LIKES OF ME TO PICK AN ARGUMENT WITH!
MY APOLOGIES, JAN!
I'M SORRY, TOO, CHET. PLEASE SIT DOWN. TELL ME ABOUT YOUR FOLKS..!
JAN, HONEY... NOW WHY WOULD I WASTE TIME TALKIN' ABOUT MY FOLKS. LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE A RIGHT PRETTY CHICK...!
I HAVE A DATE, CHET...

NOW WHY MAKE UP A FIB LIKE THAT, COUSIN JAN? I'M ALL THE DATE YOU NEED.
STOP IT, CHET. I-I... THINK YOU'D BETTER LEAVE..!
OKAY, HON, YOU PUT ON YOUR GOOD GIRL ACT. NOW LET'S...
CRACK!
YOU ALWAYS WERE A SPOILED BRAT..!
HONEY, THE MINUTE I SAW YOU, I KNEW WE BELONGED TOGETHER... MARRIED, I MEAN..!
JUST YOU AND ME AND AUNT NORA'S MONEY..!
YOU SHOULD'VE QUIT WHILE YOU WERE AHEAD, OL 'KISSIN' COUSIN OF MINE!
OWWWWWWW!
A SWIFT-KICK TO CHET'S MID-SECTION...
...FOLDS HIM UP DOUBLE..!

JAN FOLEY WATCHES CHET, NOT WITHOUT SOME PITY FOR THE AGONY SHE HAS CAUSED HIM! THEN SHE HEARS THE FRONT DOOR OPEN. AND A SICKENING GRAVE-STENCH FILLS THE BIG ROOM...
CHET! GET OUT OF HERE, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE! LOOK!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH!
YAAAGH! GREAT GOSH A'MIGHTY!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S A WALKING DEAD MAN! HE'S BEEN HERE BEFORE! HE... HE PROTECTS ME!
THE GRISLY GRAVE-THING DODDERS ABOUT AIMLESSLY, AS IF EXPECTING TO FIND THE DANGER MENACING THE MISTRESS OF FOLEY MANSION.
THEN, AS IF SUDDENLY COMPRHENDING THAT THE THREAT IS NO MORE, IT TURNS FROM THE FRONT DOOR...
IT TERRIFIES ME ...BUT THE FEW TIMES I'VE SEEN THE GHASTLY CREATURE, IT HAS NEVER TRIED TO HARM ME!
SWEETHEART, YOU LOOK PALE... SHAKEN UP!
T-THAT THING, ROY! I'VE JUST SEEN THAT DEAD-THING AGAIN... IT!
A STEELY GLINT COMES TO ROY RYAN'S EYES AS JAN TELLS HIM OF HER EXPERIENCE WITH COUSIN CHET... AND THE WALKING CORPSE...!
YOU JUST KNEED HIM? I'D LIKE TO FIX HIM PERMANENTLY!
AFTER HE SAW...IT... I DON'T THINK CHET WILL BE BACK!

BUT JAN WAS WRONG! HER SLY AND HATEFUL COUSIN CHET KELLER IS BACK AGAIN NEXT EVENING, BEAMING GOOD WILL FROM THE FRONT... AND HOLDING A HANDKERCHIEF DOUSED WITH CHLOROFORM BEHIND...
YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO SLAM THE DOOR IN MY FACE, COUSIN JAN! BUT I PLEAD DRUNKENNESS! PLEASE ACCEPT THIS WINE WITH MY APOLOGIES!
CHET STARTS FORWARD. SHE TRIES TO SLAM THE DOOR, BUT HE STOPS IT WITH HIS FOOT... THEN SLAMS IT OPEN WITH HIS SHOULDER...
GGGHAAAAAA...
OUT YOU GO, SWEET BABY!!
NO, CHET! YOU WEREN'T DRUNK! MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME TO BEWARE OF CREEPS BEARING GIFTS...
JUST GO AWAY AND LET ME FORGET THE WHOLE THING!
NOTHIN' TO SHOW I'VE BEEN HERE! WE'RE ON OUR WAY, ANGEL...
EEEYAH!
BACK WAY... THERE'S GOT TO BE A BACK WAY OUT OF HERE!
BUT HIS WAY IS BLOCKED! AND THE NIGHT AIR REEKS OF DEATH...
NOW, WE'RE GOIN' BYE-BYE... AND WINE'LL MAKE YOU SMELL BETTER'N CHLOROFORM!
THAT DISGUSTING CHUNK OF ROT... ITS STINK ALONE IS ENOUGH TO KILL A HORSE!
THE SIGHT OF IT IS ENOUGH TO SCARE A MAN TO DEATH!

CHET KELLER RAMS HIS KEY INTO THE IGNITION, TURNS IT... THE ENGINE ROARS TO LIFE...
AT LAST THINGS SEEM TO BE GOING CHET'S WAY, AND HE FEELS A SUDDEN EXHILARATION... UNTIL...
YAGHHH! THE FREAK THING'S STILL WITH ME!
YOU GRIMY SON-OF-A-GORGON... GET OFF!
I'LL SHAKE YOU LOOSE, DAMN YOU!
CHET KELLER HAS A PLAN... A DESTINATION... THE WATERFRONT...! AND AS HE COMES WITHIN SIGHT OF IT, HE YANKS THE WHEEL HARD...
CRAAASH!
...CRASHING HIS CAR, AND THROWING OFF HIS WALKING-DEAD PURSUER...!
I'D LET YOU FRY IN THERE, JANET, HONEY! BUT SINCE ONLY A TRUE FOLEY CAN INHERIT THE ESTATE, I'D WIND UP WITH NOTHING!
SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MARRY YOUR COUSIN CHET... BEFORE YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF A FATAL ACCIDENT!
COME ON, SWEETHEART... JUST A LITTLE FARTHER...!

SHE'S SOUSED, CAP'N... CELEBRATIN' OUR UPCOMIN' WEDDIN'...
BY THE TIME THEY REACH THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN, JAN FOLEY HAS ALMOST REGAINED FULL CONSCIOUSNESS...
W-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE... AM I?
MARRIAGE LICENSE IS IN ORDER. LET'S GET IT OVER WITH!
DON'T SNOW ME, KELLER! I'LL PERFORM THE CEREMONY! ONLY $500 CASH FOR ME, AND $100 FOR THE WITNESS!
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE JUS' FINE... DARLIN'!
..DO YOU, JAN, TAKE THIS MAN FOR YOUR LAWFULLY-WEDDED HUSBAND?
YOU'RE STILL DRUNK, JAN. YOU MEN YES, DON'T YOU..?
AGHHH!
Y-YES...
N...NO!
IT'S ONLY RIGHT FOR THE GROOM TO CARRY HIS BRIDE INTO HER NEW HOME... FOR YOU IT'S THE RIVER!
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
THE MONEY, MR. KELLER... BEFORE THE HONEYMOON!
WE'VE HAD OUR HONEYMOON, CAPTAIN ... HERE! $600!
I PREFER IT TO BEING YOUR WIFE!

JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU CAN'T SWIM ASHORE...
WUMP!
UNGHHH!
A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT! ONE MOMENT I'M A BRIDEGROOM! THE NEXT I'M A WIDOWER... AND HEIR TO THE FOLEY FORTUNE! NOT THAT MONEY CAN MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF MY BELOVED WIFE!
OF COURSE, THERE'LL BE QUESTIONS, SUSPICION! BUT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE A THING!
A CHILL SWEEPS OVER THE [illegible] LIKE A WAVE... LIKE BAD VIBES... THE MYSTIC SENSATION OF A PRESENCE NOT YET SEEN! HE TURNS...
NYEAAAAAA
HE CHOKES... SHRINKS BACK WITH TERROR OF THE INEVITABLE! BUT THE GRAVE THING HESITATES. STOPS! THE [illegible] HEADFIRST OVER THE RAIL...
THAT'S THE WAY... LET THE RIVER SCAVENGERS FEAST ON YOUR ROTTING FLESH!
SPLASH!
IT'S OVER, BY GAD! THE MANSION, THE MONEY... EVERYTHING. ALL MINE NOW!
TAKE ME TO THE FOLEY MANSION, CABBY...!

THE SAME EERIE FORCE THAT HAS LED IT TO THE AID OF JAN FOLEY AT THE MANSION, AND DRAWN IT TO THE CRUD-ENCRUSTED SHIP, NOW LEADS THE DEAD-THING UNERRINGLY TO THE SHALLOWER DEPTHS NEAR SHORE WHERE THE INCOMING TIDE HAS CARRIED HER...
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
I'LL FILL THIS PLACE WITH BEAUTIFUL GIRLS! I'LL ENTERTAIN A DIFFERENT ONE EVERY NIGHT! A HAREM! BY THUNDER, THAT'S WHAT I'LL HAVE... A WILD HAREM!
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
JAN! ARE YOU IN THERE?
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING HERE, KELLER?
THIS IS MY HOME, RYAN. BY INHERITANCE ... FROM MY WIFE! I SHOULD SAY, MY LATE WIFE, JAN FOLEY!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO JAN? IF YOU'VE HARMED HER, I'LL RIP THAT BLACK HEART OUT OF YOUR BODY!
LISTEN, CLOWN... STOP TALKING LIKE A WRONGED HUSBAND AND CLEAR OUT OF HERE...
I HAVE A MARRIAGE LICENSE... PROOF OF MARRIAGE. MY WIFE, JAN, WAS A BIT TIPSY. WE WERE GOIN' ON A HONEYMOON CRUISE, BUT SHE FELL OVERBOARD AND DIDN'T COME TO THE SURFACE!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT, RYAN.. ?

YOU TAKE ME FOR A *JERK*, RYAN? I TURN MY HEAD TO SEE WHAT'S BEHIND ME... AND GET *CLOBBERED!*

A *DEAD* JERK, KELLER ...

JAN! MY GOD, WHAT DID KELLER DO TO YOU?

HE... CHOKE... TRIED TO... *M-MURDER* ME!

N-NO...NOOOOO!

CHET KELLER WAS *MORE DEAD* THAN ALIVE BY THE TIME *IT* DRAGGED HIM INTO THE *CEMETERY!*

RYAN... FOR GOD'S SAKE... HELP ME!

I'LL *THINK* ABOUT IT, KELLER... IF YOU'RE STILL *AROUND* WHEN I GET DOWNSTAIRS AGAIN!

HE WAS *VERY DEAD* BEFORE *IT* RETURNED TO HIS *GRAVE*...

HERE LIE THE MORTAL REMAINS OF TIMOTHY FOLEY

HE NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD, UNTIL THE *LAST*, WHY THE DREAD *DEAD THING* KEPT ON INTERFERING IN *FOLEY* FAMILY *BUSINESS*...

BUT *TIMOTHY FOLEY* KNEW! HE KNEW HE COULD *NEVER* REST IN HIS GRAVE AS LONG AS SOMEONE POSED A THREAT TO HIS *DEAREST FOLLOW*... JAN!

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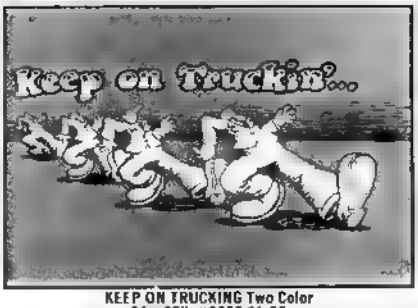
If your appetite runs to GIANT SUPER PIN-UP POSTERS, then these are your Meat! For a Main Course, try the Gigantic FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER POSTER at left, drawn as only the great Jack Davis can. This 6-foot beauty is yours for a mere $1.50! And what an array of other tidbits to choose from! TV PERSONALITIES! SUPER HEROES! MONSTERS! GODDESSES! All other Posters are 3-1/2 by 2-1/2 feet in size, printed on heavy quality paper and many are in Full Color.



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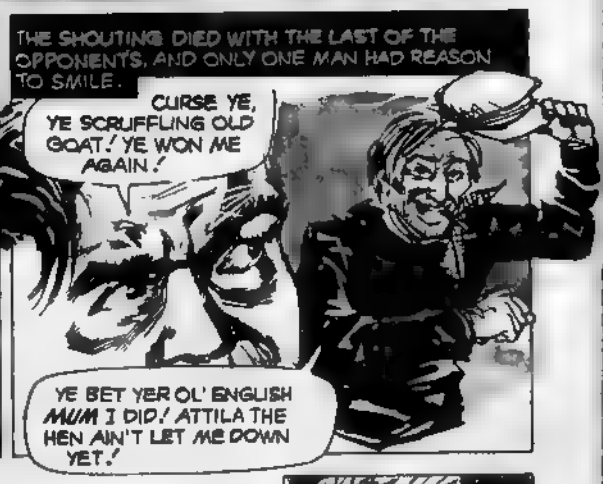
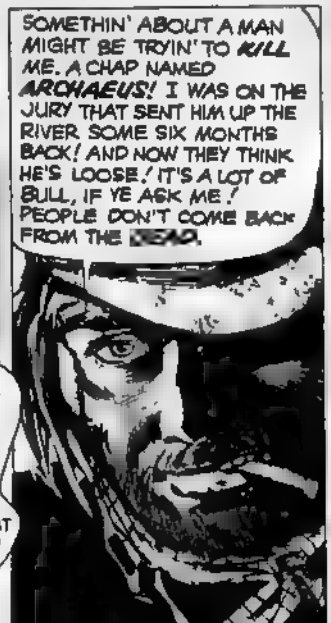
PROLOGUE.

LONDON, 1887. *COCKFIGHTING* HAD BEEN OUTLAWED AS A BARBAROUS FORM OF AMUSEMENT, BY AN *ACT OF PARLIAMENT* IN 1849. BUT RICHARD LONGMIRE HAD NEVER GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THE TENETS OF THE LAW ANYWAY.

TWO FINE BANTAMS ALREADY LAY DEAD, AND TWO TRAINERS CURSED AT THE LOSS OF THEIR WAGER. THE OTHER MEN CONTINUED TO INCITE THE ROOSTERS WITH FRENZIED EPITHETS AND SHORT JABS OF THEIR WOODEN CUDGELS.

THE SHOUTING DIED WITH THE LAST OF THE OPPONENTS, AND ONLY ONE MAN HAD REASON TO SMILE.





DOCTOR ARCHAEUS

THE NIGHT OF THE RED DEATH

STORY: GERRY BOUDREAU / ART: ISIDRO MONES

SOMEONE HAS GOT TO, JAMAICA. IF I DON'T, TEN MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE! AND THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'M CERTAIN OF. THE TWELVE JURORS WHO SENT ALISTAIR ARCHAEUS TO THE GALLOWS ARE MARKED FOR DEATH. HE'S BEATEN ME TWICE SO FAR! I CAN'T LET HIM MAKE A FOOL OF ME AGAIN!
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU, MILES? SAVING THE LIVES OF THOSE PEOPLE OR NOT LOOKING LIKE A FOOL?
AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT EVEN SURE, AND THAT'S PRETTY SAD.
SANFORD TURNED, AND MET THE DEW-SOFT EYES OF JAMAICA. FOR A MOMENT HE PAUSED AND BEHELD HER LITHE, SUPPLE BODY MORE CLEARLY THAN HE EVER HAD BEFORE. HIS EYES SPOKE OF PLEASANT MEMORIES AND EAGER ANTICIPATIONS, AND HE SMILED AT THE THOUGHT THAT AT LEAST ONE OF HIS FRUSTRATIONS WOULD BE RESOLVED.
WHILE ELSEWHERE, A MAN CALLED ARCHAEUS WATCHED AND WAITED...
RICHARD LONGMIRE! HIS CURIOUS, AND SLIGHTLY UNLAWFUL HOBBY, DESIGNATES HIM AS MY NEXT VICTIM. BUT THE TIME HAS COME FOR CAUTION. INSPECTOR SANFORD IS NOT A STUPID MAN, AND I DOUBT IT WILL BE LONG BEFORE HE PIECES TOGETHER THE PATTERN OF MY PLANS. THEREFORE, I MUST PERFORM THE UNEXPECTED!

RICHARD LONGMIRE WAS AS GENEROUS AS MILES SANFORD WAS FRUSTRATED. CELEBRATING HIS VICTORY IN THE COCKFIGHT, HE INVITED HIS VANQUISHED COMPANIONS TO SHARE IN HIS GOOD FORTUNE...

DRINK UP, M' LADS! AFTER ALL, IT'S YOUR LOSS W'OTS PAYING FOR THE BEER!

OH, SO YER THE ONE WITH ALL THE MONEY, EH? WHY DONT'CHA USE SOME TO GET YE'SELF SOME NEW CLOTHES?

SO SOME LITTLE WENCH LIKE YOU CAN SNATCH MY PURSE WHILST YOU LEAD ME UPSTAIRS? NO THANK YE, MADAME!

FROM ACROSS THE TAVERN, COLD STEEL-GREY EYES WATCHED LONGMIRE PENSIVELY. ALTHOUGH THE GRIM VISAGE WAS HIDDEN BY SHADOWS, SUCH PRE-CAUTION WAS UNNECESSARY. RICHARD LONGMIRE HAD LONG FORGOTTEN THE FACE OF THE MAN HE CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

NOW 'ERE'S WOT I LIKE! A MAN WHO CAN SIT QUIET LIKE A GENTLE-MAN AN' NOT CARRY ON LIKE SOME WILD ANIMAL. A WOMAN COULD DO SOMETHIN' FER A GENTLEMAN LIKE THAT. WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO SOMETHIN' FER YOU?

INDEED I WOULD, YOU DUMB HARLOT. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ***GET OUT OF MY WAY!***

YOU LOUTS ARE ALL ALIKE! YOU COME IN HERE AND TALK TOUGH TO A WOMAN 'CAUSE IT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE LIKE A MAN! WELL, MISTER, WITH A FACE LIKE ***YOURS***, I CAN ***SEE*** WHY YE DON'T LIKE WOMEN!

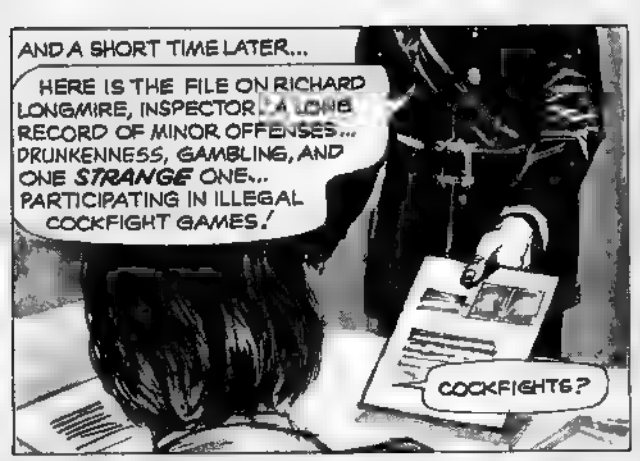
YOU ***SLIME!*** YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT INSULT!

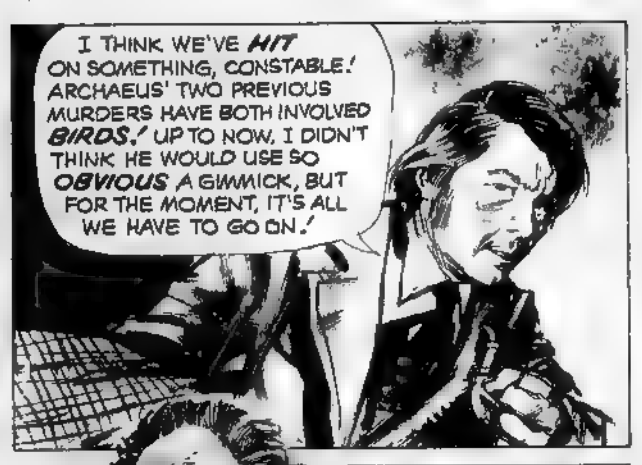
HHEEELLPPPP!

THIS BLOKE'S GONE CRAZY!

GET THE BOBBIES BEFORE HE ***KILLS*** HER!

DAMN! THAT ACCURSED TEMPER OF MINE NEARLY RUINED EVERYTHING! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THE STUPID WOMAN SPOILS THE WHOLE PLAN! MUCH AS I HATE HER, SHE ISN'T WORTH SACRIFICING MY MOST IMPORTANT TASK.
TOO LATE, CAPTAIN! HE'S GONE!
YES, 'E IS, BUT I'LL TELL YE SOMETHIN'! BEFORE 'E WENT, I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THAT FACE! AIN'T NO QUESTION ABOUT IT...! THAT MAN WAS ALISTAIR ARCHAEUS!
BUT ARCHAEUS IS DEAD!
DON'T BE TOO SURE! INSPECTOR SANFORD THOUGHT THE OL' DEVIL WAS STILL ALIVE, AND I GUESS THIS PROVES 'E'S RIGHT! WE'D BETTER TELL HIM!
SOON, AT THE SCOTLAND YARD OFFICE OF INSPECTOR MILES SANFORD...
SO ARCHAEUS IS THE MAN I WANT! DID YOU GET THE NAMES OF ANY OF THE OTHER WITNESSES?
SURE DID, INSPECTOR. THEY'RE ALL HERE!
RICHARD LONGMIRE! I REMEMBER... HE WAS ONE OF THE JURORS AT ARCHAEUS' TRIAL! CAPTAIN, THIS MIGHT BE OUR CHANCE TO BEAT ARCHAEUS AT HIS OWN GAME! FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT RICHARD LONGMIRE!

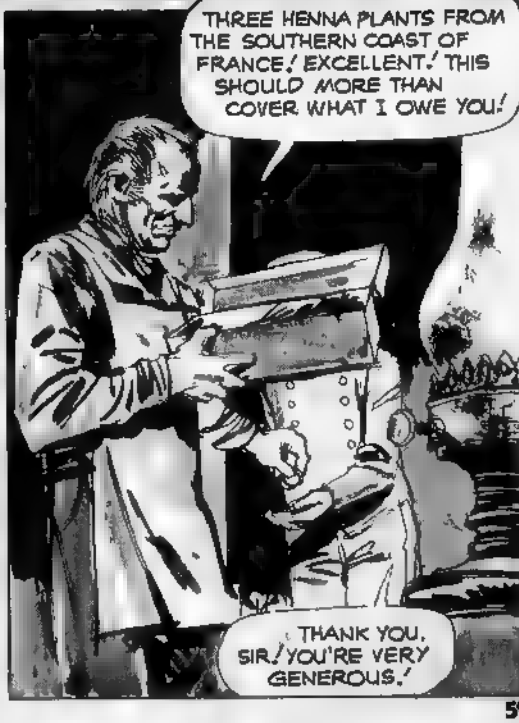

AND A SHORT TIME LATER...
HERE IS THE FILE ON RICHARD LONGMIRE, INSPECTOR. A LONG RECORD OF MINOR OFFENSES... DRUNKENNESS, GAMBLING, AND ONE STRANGE ONE... PARTICIPATING IN ILLEGAL COCKFIGHT GAMES!
COCKFIGHTS?


I THINK WE'VE HIT ON SOMETHING, CONSTABLE! ARCHAEUS' TWO PREVIOUS MURDERS HAVE BOTH INVOLVED BIRDS! UP TO NOW, I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD USE SO OBVIOUS A GIMMICK, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, IT'S ALL WE HAVE TO GO ON!

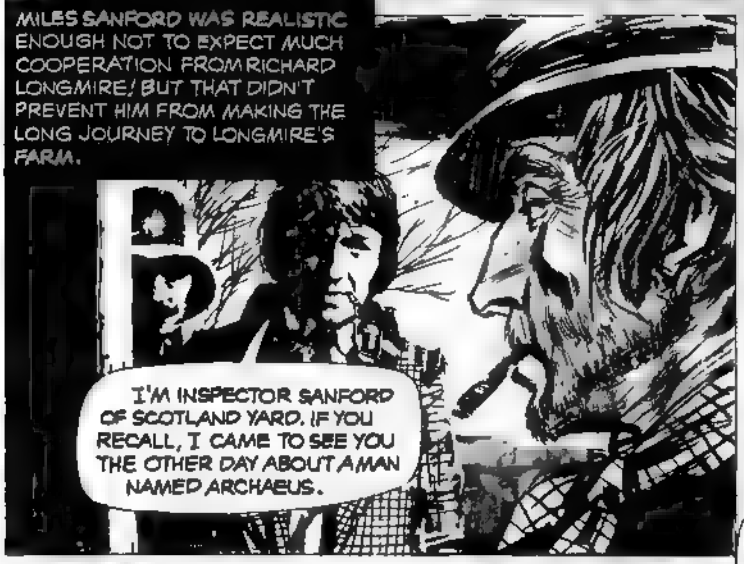
MEANWHILE, IN A MUSTY, SINGLE-ROOM FLAT ALONG THE WATERFRONT DISTRICT OF LONDON, ALISTAIR ARCHAEUS STUDIED THE SMALL VIAL OF RED LIQUID WITH A MORBID FASCINATION. IF A MAN SO GROTESQUELY UGLY CAN BE SAID TO SMILE, THEN ARCHAEUS DID SO.

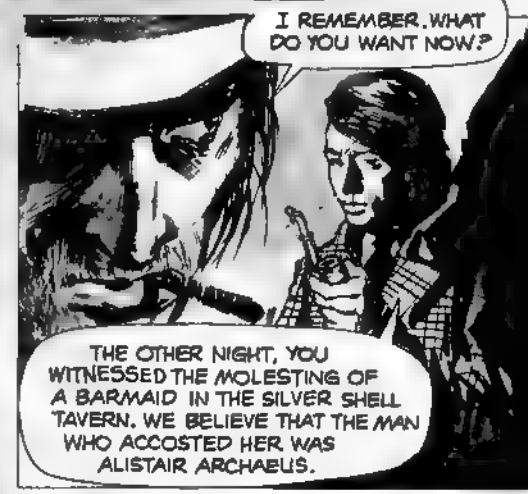
YES, JUST A MOMENT YOU BOISTEROUS FOOL! WHY DO THESE IMBECILES SHOW UP ALWAYS AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT?
KNOCK! KNOCK!

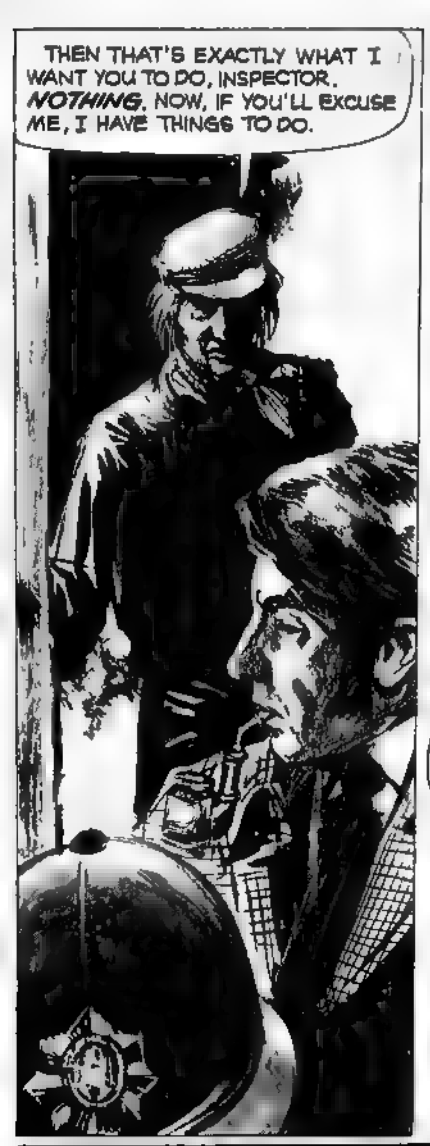
THE FLOWERS YOU ORDERED, SIR! I AM AFRAID IT'S GOING TO COST YOU A TIDY SUM, BECAUSE WE HAD TO IMPORT THEM FROM FRANCE! BUT THEY ARE THE KIND YOU SPECIFIED!

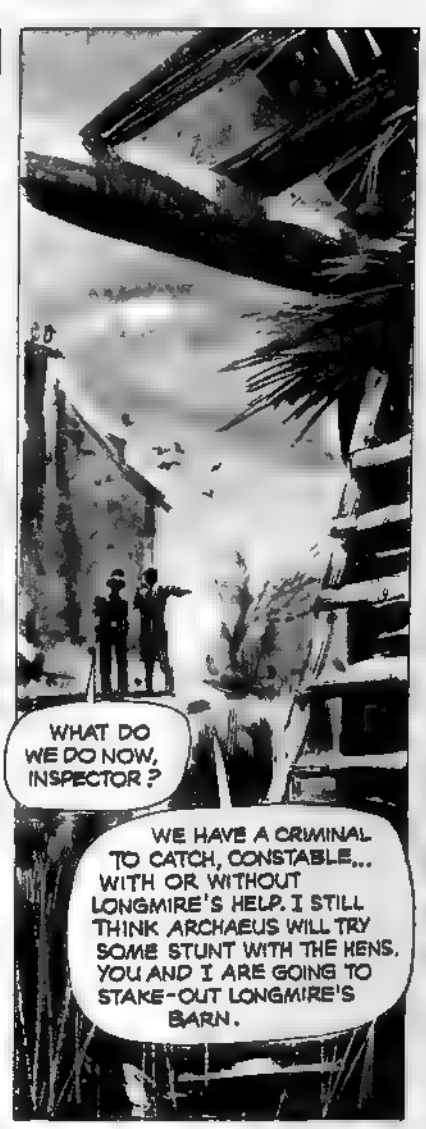

THREE HENNA PLANTS FROM THE SOUTHERN COAST OF FRANCE! EXCELLENT! THIS SHOULD MORE THAN COVER WHAT I OWE YOU!
THANK YOU, SIR! YOU'RE VERY GENEROUS!

MILES SANFORD WAS REALISTIC ENOUGH NOT TO EXPECT MUCH COOPERATION FROM RICHARD LONGMIRE, BUT THAT DIDN'T PREVENT HIM FROM MAKING THE LONG JOURNEY TO LONGMIRE'S FARM.






THEN THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO, INSPECTOR. *NOTHING*. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE THINGS TO DO.


WHAT DO WE DO NOW, INSPECTOR?
WE HAVE A CRIMINAL TO CATCH, CONSTABLE... WITH OR WITHOUT LONGMIRE'S HELP. I STILL THINK ARCHAEUS WILL TRY SOME STUNT WITH THE HENS. YOU AND I ARE GOING TO STAKE-OUT LONGMIRE'S BARN.

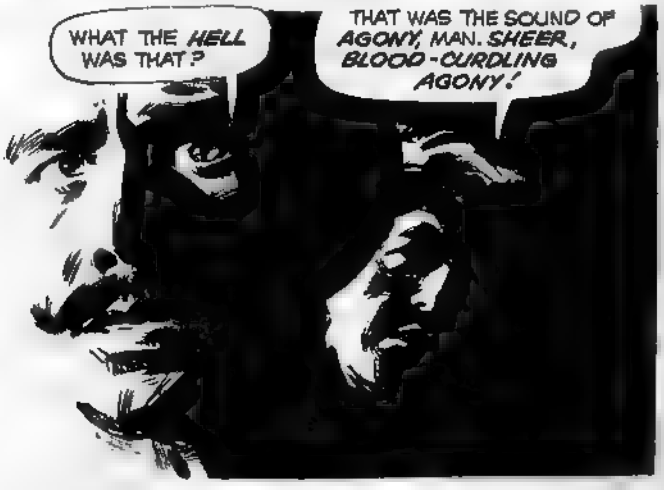
DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE LEAVING LONGMIRE ALONE IN THE HOUSE?
HE WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. ALL WE CAN DO FOR THE MOMENT IS PRAY THAT MY HUNCH IS RIGHT.

AT THE SOUND OF THE DOORBELL, RICHARD LONGMIRE CURSED. WHAT THE HELL DID THAT DAMN INSPECTOR WANT NOW? THUS, HE WAS RATHER SURPRISED WHEN A UNIFORMED MESSENGER SAID:
PACKAGE FOR RICHARD LONGMIRE! SIGN HERE, PLEASE.
THANK YE, M' LAD. A WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS AND THEY'RE STILL SENDIN' ME PRESENTS.

NOW WHO THE DIVIL'D BE SENDIN' ME FLOWER'S? BETTER READ THE CARD...

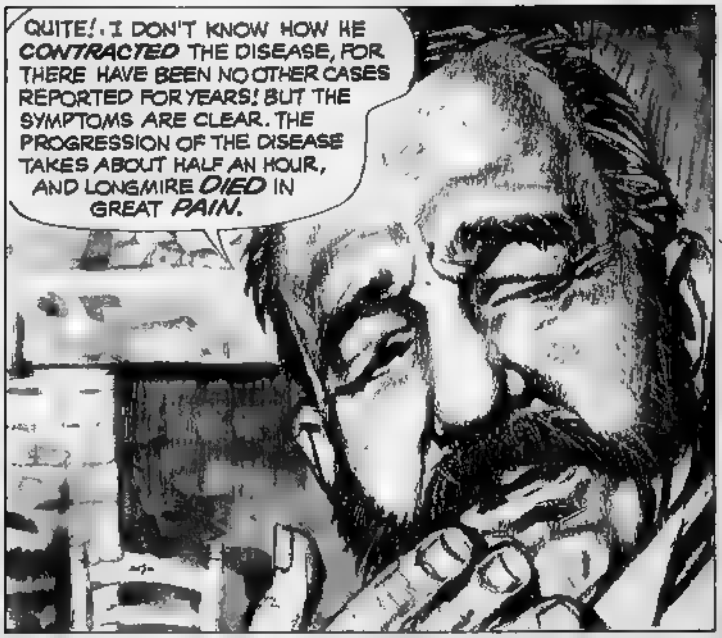
RICHARD LONGMIRE, WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY OVER YOUR LOSS. DOCTOR ALISTAIR ARCHAEUS.

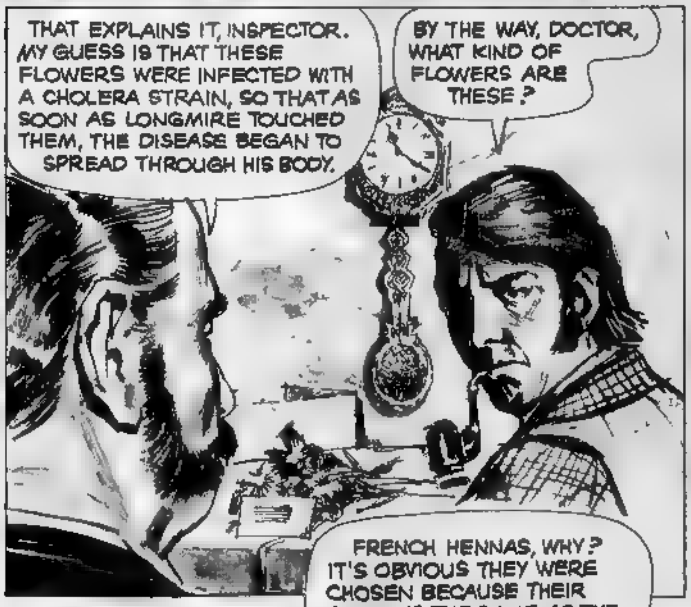
WE'VE BEEN HERE ALMOST AN HOUR, INSPECTOR! AND IT'S DEAD QUIET. I DON'T THINK WE'LL SEE ANY FOWL PLAY TONIGHT.
SPARE ME THE HUMOR, CONSTABLE. YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH. IN FACT, IT'S A LITTLE BIT TOO QUIET.
AAARRGG!


WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
THAT WAS THE SOUND OF AGONY, MAN. SHEER, BLOOD-CURDLING AGONY!

MY GOD! LOOK AT HIS FACE!
STAY BACK, CONSTABLE! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW AND IT MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS. SEND FOR A DOCTOR!

SOON...
NO NEED FOR CLOSE EXAMINATION, INSPECTOR. THIS MAN IS DEAD. IT'S TOO RISKY TO DO A COMPLETE EXAMINATION NOW! BUT OFF HAND, I'D SAY THIS MAN DIED OF CHOLERA.
ARE YOU SERIOUS, DOCTOR?





THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON THEY WERE CHOSEN, DOCTOR. AT LAST, I'VE FIGURED OUT THE BIZARRE PATTERN BEHIND ARCHAEUS CRIMES! I WAS RIGHT, CONSTABLE...! IT'S FAR MORE SUBTLE AND PERVERSE THAN A MERE USE OF BIRDS! IT'S DOWNRIGHT DIABOLICAL!

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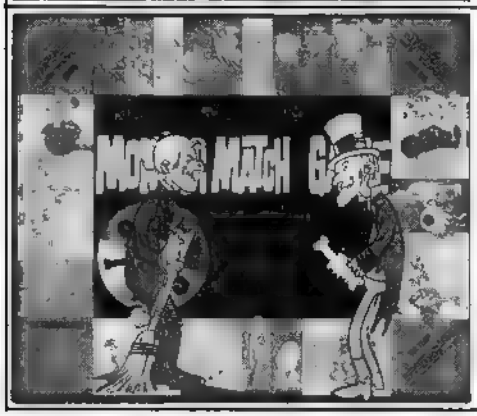

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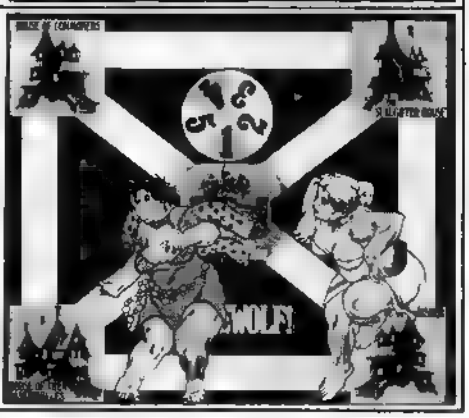

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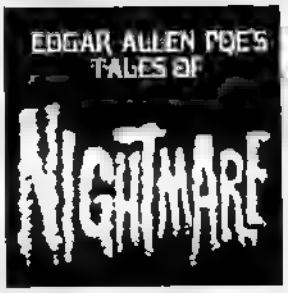

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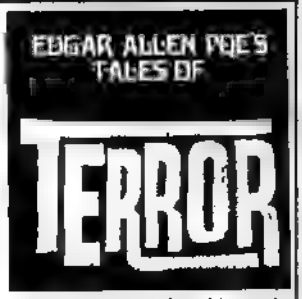

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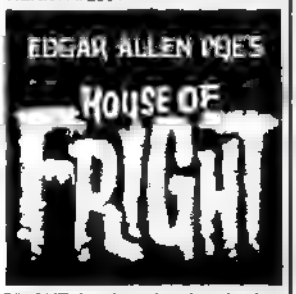

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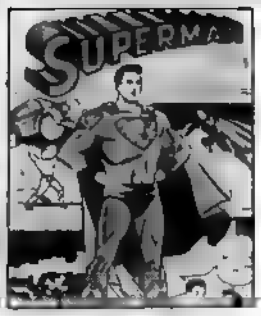

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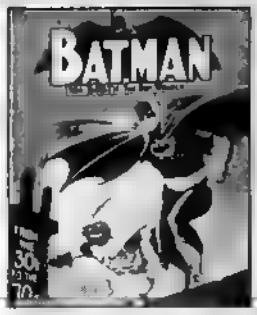

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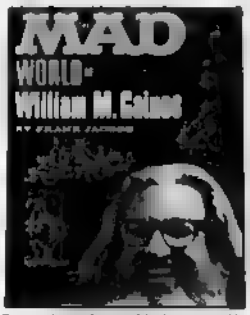

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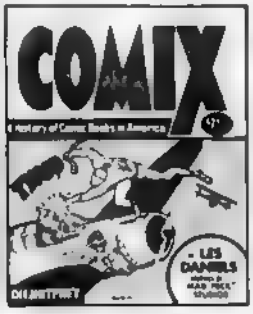

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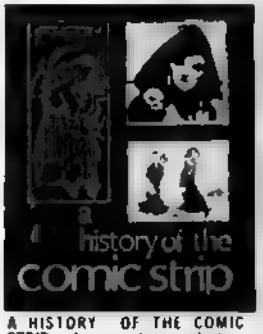

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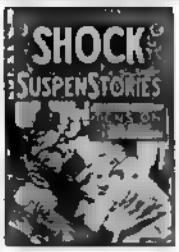

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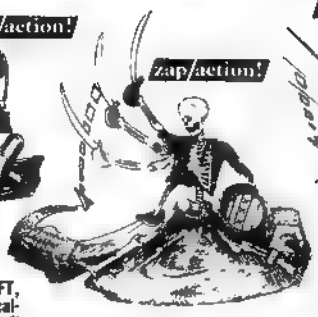

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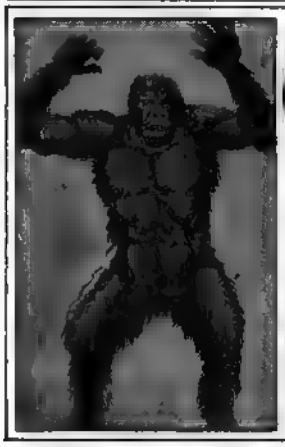

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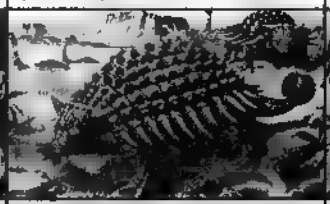

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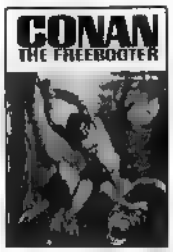

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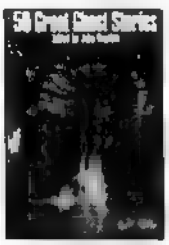

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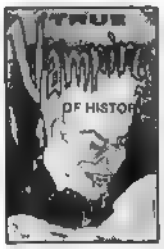

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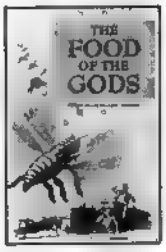

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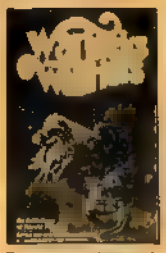

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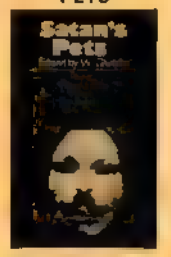

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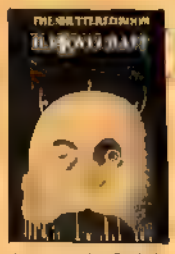

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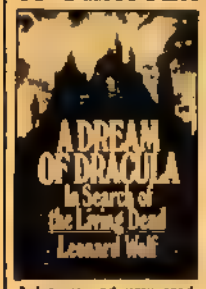

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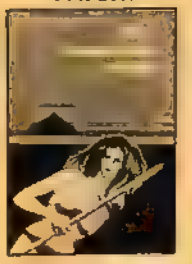

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